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PETERSEN'S 21ST/1981 ANNUAL



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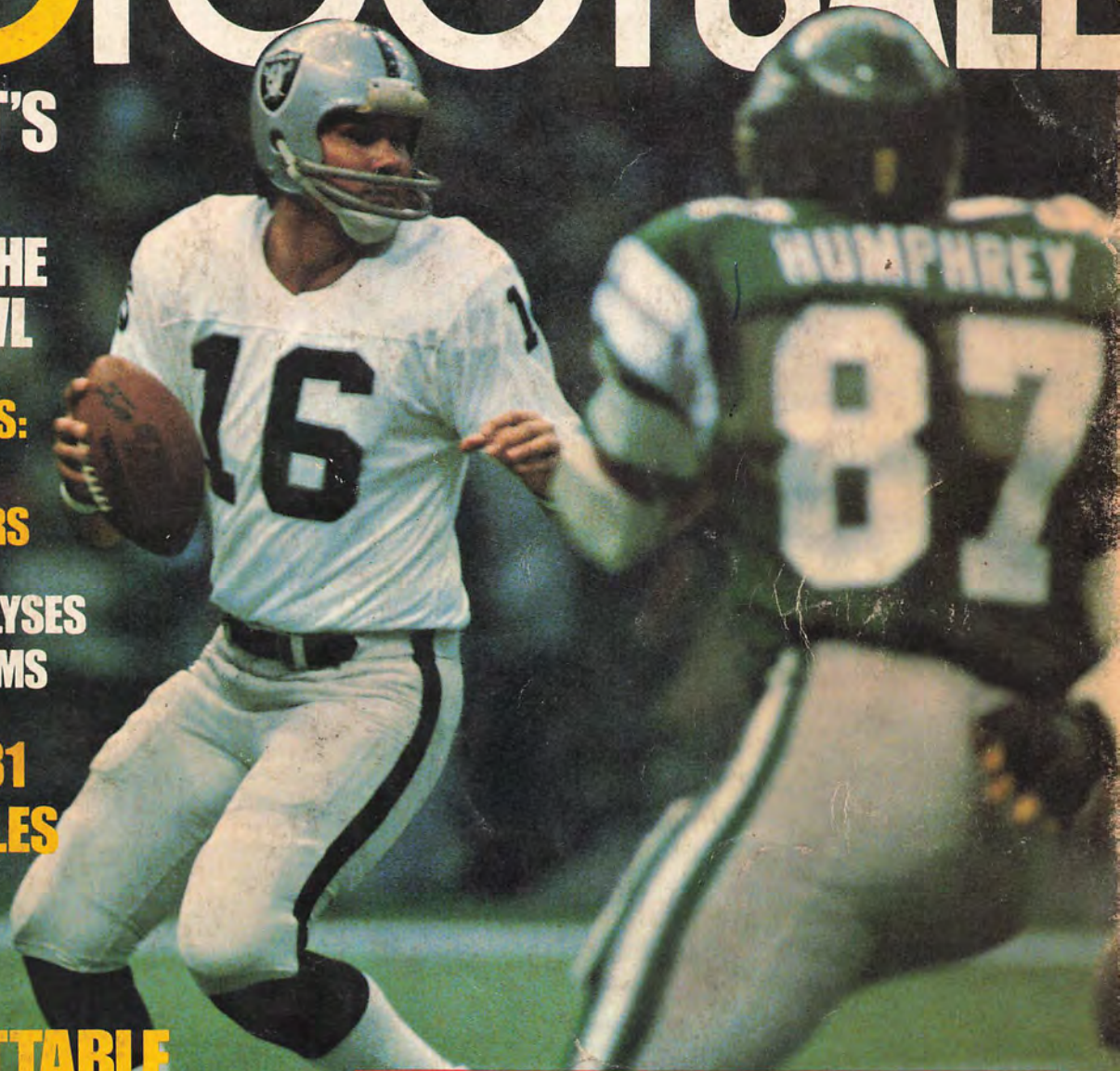
**PLUNKETT'S
RAIDERS:
KINGS OF THE
SUPER BOWL**

**'81 PREDICTIONS:
THE WINNERS
AND THE LOSERS**

**IN-DEPTH ANALYSES
OF ALL NFL TEAMS**

**COMPLETE '81
NFL SCHEDULES**

**THE
UNFORGETTABLE
SUPERSTARS:
GRANGE, HALAS, BAUGH
BROWN, BERGEY
UNITAS, SIMPSON**



JOHNNY UNITAS



O.J. SIMPSON







PRO FOOTBALL

1981 ANNUAL

Dedication

We dedicate this 21st Petersen's Pro Football Annual to the memory of Hamilton B. (Tex) Maule, who wrote our keynote story on "The Image of Pro Football" 10 years ago (1971 edition). Tex was

one of this publication's best friends and strongest boosters. He was the assistant public relations director (under Tex Schramm) of the L.A. Rams in the late '40s and later became the senior pro football

editor of *Sports Illustrated*. For many years he was recognized as the leading pro football writer in the nation. We mourn his passing, at age 66, on May 17, 1981.

Acknowledgments

Petersen's Pro Football Annual gratefully acknowledges the invaluable assistance of many residents of the pro football and related communities, especially including Pete Rozelle, Don Weiss, Jim Heffernan, Joe Browne, Jim Steeg, Dick Maxwell, Susan McCann, Art McNally, Fran Connors, Norm Schachter, Don Smith, Charlie Dayton, Walt Gutowski, Budd Thalman, Ted Haracz, Al Heim, Nate Wallack,

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Braven Dyer, Jr., Jan Rus, Barbara Rutigliano, Herb Shaw, those who helped and remained anonymous, and the fine staffs many who have been named. Our thanks to the contributing photographers, including George Gojkovich, Pete Groh, Hugh Baker, Al Palocz, Ed Babst, Vernon J. Biever, A. N. Anderson, James Biever, Bill Johnston, and Spencer Prendergrass.

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COVER: The most unforgettable facet of the Oakland Raiders' win in Super Bowl XV was the great comeback performance of quarterback Jim Plunkett after several years of relative inactivity. Always very popular in the pro football community, Plunkett's winning performance reflected his 10-year maturity (page 120). Johnny Unitas (page 16) and O. J. Simpson (page 28), in their roles as performers and as men, will take their places in NFL history as unforgettables. Cover design by Dick Fischer.

PETERSEN'S 21ST
1981 ANNUAL
PRO FOOTBALL
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Our Theme This Year Is The **UNFORGETTABLES**



*Sid Luckman—Quarterback, Chicago Bears.
In 1948, he (42) scrambles from the pursuit of
defensive end Tom Fears (55) of Los Angeles.*

How quickly we forget!" Of course. We forget many things, simply because a permanent memory is created only by the repeated exercise involved in picturing and re-picturing the person, place, or event. Without the repeated-thought process, everything is forgotten.

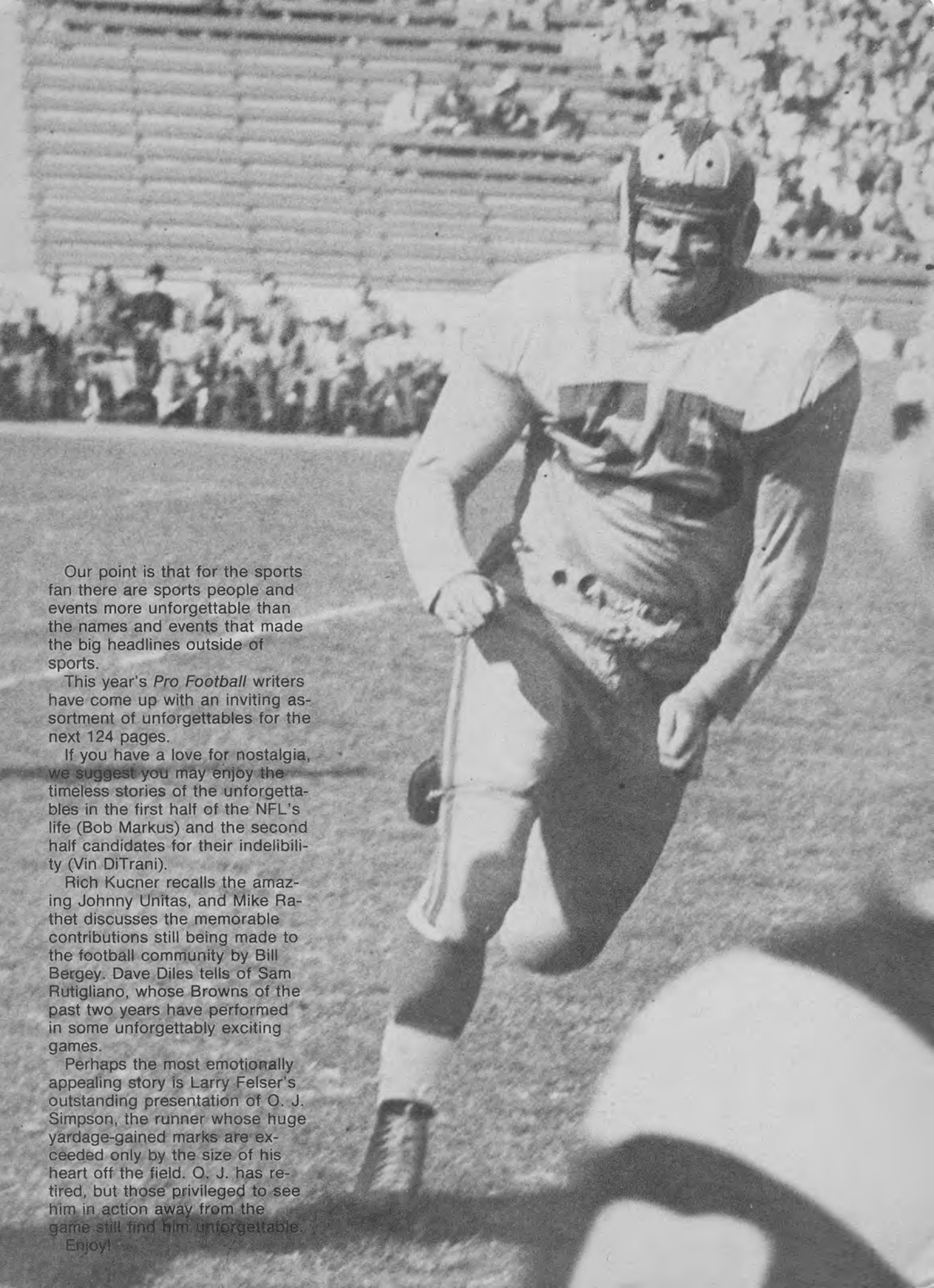
Ask someone of grandparent age to identify the following:

The NRA. Douglas Corrigan. The fifth column. The S-4. Bryan Unteidt. The Ercoupe. The colorless penny. Deanna Durbin. Eniwetok. Paul Siple.

We'll be glad to grade your paper. Now, ask your same grandparent-age test-taker to identify the following, but only if he is at least a mild football fan:

73-0. Albie Booth. The year of Notre Dame 18, Ohio State 13. Don Hutson. Sid Luckman. George Marshall. Eric Tipton. Doyle Nave. Tuffy Leemans. Les Horvath.

Oh, yes. We'll grade that paper too, if you like.



Our point is that for the sports fan there are sports people and events more unforgettable than the names and events that made the big headlines outside of sports.

This year's *Pro Football* writers have come up with an inviting assortment of unforgettables for the next 124 pages.

If you have a love for nostalgia, we suggest you may enjoy the timeless stories of the unforgettables in the first half of the NFL's life (Bob Markus) and the second half candidates for their indelibility (Vin DiTrani).

Rich Kucner recalls the amazing Johnny Unitas, and Mike Rathet discusses the memorable contributions still being made to the football community by Bill Bergey. Dave Diles tells of Sam Rutigliano, whose Browns of the past two years have performed in some unforgettably exciting games.

Perhaps the most emotionally appealing story is Larry Felser's outstanding presentation of O. J. Simpson, the runner whose huge yardage-gained marks are exceeded only by the size of his heart off the field. O. J. has retired, but those privileged to see him in action away from the game still find him unforgettable.

Enjoy!

UNFORGETTABLES 1920-1950

Carefree, Poor, Unpredictable, and Exciting

BY BOB MARKUS



The march of time is so swift that already their names evoke a myth-like awe. Red Grange, Jim Thorpe, Ernie Nevers, Johnny Blood, Bronko Nagurski are the unforgettable names of a pro

football past that seems as far removed from Super Bowl XVI as the Trojan Wars. So quickly do the stars shoot across the football skies that decades seem to stretch like centuries, and already Gale Sayers is entering the shadowland between legend and reality.

But consider that the National Football League is eight years younger than the current President of the United States. And before a National Football League ever existed, cars, airplanes, telephones, and radios were commonplace.

When we think of those grand old names, we think of ancient warriors, long since laid to rest. Yet, happily, many of them are with us still, and there is one, the most unforgettable of all, whose name runs like a silver thread through the fabric of pro football history, tying the past to the present. George Stanley Halas was present at the birth. If he is not the father of the National Football League, he was one of the attending physicians.

As a player, Halas was an outstanding two-way end. In 1923 he returned a Jim Thorpe fumble 98 yards for a touchdown, a record that stood until 1972 when Jack Tatum broke it. As a coach he led the Chicago Bears to a record 325 victories, eight divisional championships, and six league titles, the last earned in 1963.

As late as 1967 he was still coaching actively, and there are those who have accused him of dabbling in the art ever since. As an owner he was at the 1920 meeting in Canton, Ohio, when the NFL was born, and, incredibly, he remains active to this day.

If Halas was the single most dominant personality of the first three decades of the NFL, singling out one player is a much more difficult task.

The player who had the most impact on the game was Red Grange. But he was not its outstanding performer. That accolade must go to Don Hutson, who was as far ahead of his time as a pass receiver as Babe Ruth was ahead of his time as a home run hitter.

Playing in an era when most teams thought a pass was what you left at the ticket gate for your wife or girl friend, Hutson set a standard against which all pass receivers still must be measured. His record of 99 career touchdown receptions is still unchallenged. He was the first receiver to go over 1000 yards in a season and did it in an 11-game season. He still holds virtually every Packer receiving record.

What follows are the most unforgettable men, games, and moments, which established the NFL firmly at the forefront of America's sporting parade.

THE OWNERS

George Halas may be the most enduring owner, but there were others of equal or near-equal influence in the early years. Halas' greatest rival through most of his career was Earl (Curly) Lambeau of the Green Bay Packers. Modern fans who know the Bears and Packers only as doormats of the uninspiring Central Division of the NFC cannot imagine the intensity of the rivalry between these two northern Midwest outposts.

Lambeau founded the Packers in 1919 when he talked his employer, the Indian Packing Company, into spending \$500 for uniforms and equipment. A year after the NFL was formed, the Packers gained admittance with Lambeau as coach, general manager, publicity man, and star halfback.

The franchise holder was John Clair, who ran the company. But in 1922 Clair was forced to surrender the franchise to the league because he had been using college players as ringers. Lambeau was determined to rescue the franchise and was prepared to pay \$50 ransom, the price of a franchise in those days.

Unhappily, Lambeau's resources did not go beyond the \$50, and he needed somehow to get to Canton, Ohio, where the league was meeting. Turning to a friend, Don Murphy, Lambeau worked out a unique deal. Murphy would sponsor Lambeau's trip to Canton if the coach would agree to let Murphy open the season in the Green Bay Packers' lineup.

Accordingly, Murphy sold his Marmon roadster for \$1500 to finance the trip and played one minute of the opener against Duluth.

The price of a franchise was up to \$2500 in 1925 when Tim Mara paid that amount to establish the New York Giants. Mara originally had been hoping to buy a piece of heavyweight champion Gene Tunney but figured that, at the price, any kind of professional sports franchise in New York was a bargain.

He may not have felt quite so sanguine a few months later when the club was operating \$40,000 in the red, but that lasted only until the magic day when Red Grange came to town and filled the Polo Grounds with 70,000



1. George Halas (circa 1920)—Founding owner, Decatur Staleys (Chicago Bears), from 1920. End, Chicago Bears, 1920-29. Coach, Chicago Bears, 1920-29, 1933-42, 1946-55, 1958-67.



2. George Halas (circa 1940)



3. George Halas (circa 1960)



4. George Halas (circa 1980)



5. The Decatur Staleys, 1920—An original NFL team, later renamed the Chicago Bears. Three best known athletes: George Halas (front row center), end; George Trafton (front row extreme left), center; Charlie Dressen (back row extreme right), quarterback.

6. Don Hutson—End, Green Bay, 1935-45.

7. Earl (Curly) Lambeau—Halfback, Green Bay, 1921-30. Coach, Green Bay, 1921-49.

8. Tim Mara—Founding owner, New York Giants, 1925-59.

9. George Preston Marshall—Founding owner, Boston/Washington Redskins, 1932-1969.

10. Art Rooney, Sr. (circa 1937)—Founding owner, Pittsburgh Pirates/Steelers, from 1933.

11. Art Rooney, Sr. (circa 1977)



new pro football fans.

Mara, like Halas and Lambeau, is in the pro football Hall of Fame.

The most innovative of the great owners may have been George Preston Marshall, the maverick owner of the Washington Redskins, who entered the league in 1932 and within two years was practically running it.

It was Marshall who suggested that the league be split into two divisions with a championship game to be played between division winners. Art Rooney of Pittsburgh, another celebrated owner of the era, once recalled that Marshall's favorite ploy was to introduce one of his measures on the first day of a meeting, easily acquiesce to the tabling of the idea and then, just as the meeting was getting ready to break up several wearisome days later, remind his fellow owners that his measure was still on the table.

By that time nobody had the energy to oppose him. Marshall, a promotional genius, organized the Redskin band and popularized extravagant half-time shows. For his second season, when the team was still in Boston, he hired a full-blooded Indian coach and had the team picture taken with the entire club in war-paint and headdress. He also had the brass, when the Redskins won their first division title in 1936, to move the championship game to New York because he did not feel that "proper" Bostonians were showing proper enthusiasm for the club. The next year he moved the team to Washington.

Art Rooney purchased the Pittsburgh franchise in 1933 on the proceeds of a profitable weekend at Saratoga Race Track. Now known as the lovable patriarch of the highly successful Steelers, Rooney went through years of struggling marked by occasional triumphs, like the signing of Byron (Whizzer) White to a contract for the then unheard of sum of \$15,800 a year. White played only one year for Pittsburgh before going to England as a Rhodes scholar. Now he is an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE COACHES

Halas and Lambeau were the dominant coaches of the first three decades, both having founded, and played for, their teams. Oddly, both also retired as players in the same year, 1930. Halas also retired briefly as coach that year, but came back after a three-season hiatus. The two undoubtedly had a great advantage over most of their contemporaries inasmuch as they did not have to suffer the whims of unpredictable owners.

Perhaps the greatest of the coaches for hire was the Giants' Steve Owen, who produced eight divisional champions and two league titles in addition to inventing the "umbrella" defense. Owen coached 23 years with never more than a handshake for a contract.

Earle (Greasy) Neale was another Hall of Fame coach who made a significant contribution to defensive strategy with his Eagle defense, the forerunner of the modern 4-3.

Neale also coached the Eagles in their greatest era, the late 1940s, when they won three successive division titles and two NFL championships in a row. But Neale was fired after a fight with the new club owner late in the 1950 season.

Ray Flaherty and Jimmy Conzelman were other important coaches in the years the NFL was fighting to establish its identity. Flaherty led the Washington Redskins to four division titles and two world championships and had an outstanding 80-37-5 career record. Conzelman was twice coach of the Chicago Cardinals, an offensive genius who molded "The Dream Backfield" into a world championship wrecking crew.

THE PLAYERS

Paddy Driscoll, who was there at the beginning, was that rare player who always was at his best in the big game. The big game for the Chicago Cardinals, for whom Driscoll starred, was always against the Chicago Bears. In the six years that Driscoll played against the Bears, the Cardinals won three games, the Bears won four, and there were three scoreless ties. Driscoll accounted for every one of his team's points in those 10 games, dropping kicking eight field goals in the Cardinals' 9-0, 9-0, and 6-0 victories.

George Halas became so frustrated trying to beat Paddy Driscoll that he finally did the only thing he could—he bought him for the Bears team.

UNFORGETTABLES

1920-1950

But it was another Halas player acquisition that dramatically set the game on its irrevocable course. Before Red Grange joined the Bears, pro football was placed in the back of the sports section. It was treated by sports editors then the way soccer or women's basketball is treated by many sports editors now.

Grange's signing brought about a dramatic change. The Illinois star had sprung to prominence with a five-touchdown game against Michigan in 1924. Following the 1925 season he immediately signed a Bear contract and although it was late November played the remainder of the season (seven games) and then went on a 19-game barnstorming tour.

The Bears drew more than 70,000 fans in New York for a regular season game and 75,000 in Los Angeles for an exhibition in January. Grange and his flamboyant agent, C.C. (Cash and Carry) Pyle, earned more than \$100,000 on the trip. Grange, however, injured a knee two years later and never afterwards was the offensive player that he had been in college. He remained a tough, determined defensive standout for the remainder of his career.

Ernie Nevers, the Stanford great, joined the pros the year after Grange but never played with a great team. His career was a brief five years, but he made the most of it. With the Duluth Eskimos, a team that fielded only 13 players, he played all but 29 minutes as a rookie player-coach. And in 1929, in a game against the Bears, he scored 40 points for the cross-town Cardinals, an NFL record that stands to this day.

Jim Thorpe already was past his prime as a player when the NFL was organized. In the years since he had won the Olympic decathlon and heard the King of Sweden proclaim, "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world." Thorpe had played major league baseball and pro football with the Canton Bulldogs. Even past his peak, he was a tremendous hitter, a Jim Taylor on offense, a Jack Tatum on defense.

So, too, was the Bears' Bronko Nagurski, the great Minnesota giant, who played both fullback and tackle in the NFL. He threw a controversial touchdown pass in a championship game that inspired the rules changes that opened up the passing game. He also was the lead blocker when Beattie Feathers became the first running back to gain 1000 yards in a season.

Grange, Thorpe, Nevers, and Nagurski all were superstars before they ever stepped onto an NFL gridiron, but Johnny Blood was purely a product of the pros, right down to his name, which was really McNally.

Needing an alias to protect his amateur standing while he played for a semi-pro team, McNally, so the story goes, remembered passing a movie marquee featuring Rudolph Valentino in *Blood and Sand*. When asked his name he blurted: "Johnny Blood."

By any name he was a sweet, though eccentric, football player. Art Rooney once hired him as player-coach for the Steelers and Blood demonstrated a unique and very effective coaching technique. He took the opening kickoff of the first game of the season and ran

it back 100 yards for a touchdown. Then, turning to his teammates, he said, "There fellows, that's the way to do it."

The two most memorable passers of those first three decades were Sammy Baugh of the Redskins and Sid Luckman of the Bears. Baugh, a lanky Texan in the Gary Cooper mold, was a single wing tailback for the first seven years of his career, while Luckman, also a tailback in college, was the first of the great T-formation quarterbacks.

As passers they were equally superb, but Baugh had two gifts that Luckman did not possess. He was a magnificent punter and still holds the NFL record with his 45.1 lifetime average and his 51.4 single season average in

1940. And he was a marvelous defensive back. Luckman, however, one-upped his rival when he became the first NFL passer to throw for seven touchdowns in a game just two weeks after Slinging Sam had thrown for six.

Two fine passers of the era were Green Bay's Arnie Herber and Cecil Isbell, but they are remembered most as the men who got the ball to Don Hutson. It is doubtful any player ever made a more auspicious debut than Hutson. On the first play of his first game he caught an 83-yard touchdown pass from Herber to beat the hated Bears 7-0.

THE GAMES

It was not the game nor the score but the circumstances that made the New York Giants' 30-13 victory over the Chicago Bears in 1934 one of pro football's most noteworthy. It was the second true NFL championship



12. **Byron (Whizzer) White—Halfback,** Pittsburgh, 1938; Detroit, 1940-41.

game, the Bears defeated the Giants in the inaugural the year before, and it was played on a frozen field in the Polo Grounds.

Ray Flaherty, the Giants' team captain, later to become a great head coach, remembered that in college he once had been forced to wear sneakers to protect an injured foot. He had noticed that the shoes gave him much better traction on a frozen field than did the conventional, cleated football shoes.

Before the game, Flaherty suggested to coach Steve Owen that the Giants wear sneakers. It wasn't until the third quarter that the team's equipment manager was able to find enough to equip the team. By that time the Giants were behind 13-3. But when they laced on their magic shoes, the Giants became supermen. As the Bears slipped and slid over the frozen field, the Giants scored 27 points in the last quarter to win, 30-13.

The score of the 1940 NFL championship

alone made the game unforgettable. Even the casual football fan instantly recognizes 73-0 as the margin by which the Bears humiliated the Redskins. To make matters worse, the game was played in Washington.

Bill Osmanski scored on a 68-yard run on the second play from scrimmage, aided by a stunning block from George Wilson, who cleaned out two defenders on the play. A sure touchdown pass by Sammy Baugh, which would have tied the game, was dropped, leading the Redskin quarterback to allow that had the play succeeded, the final score might otherwise have been only 73-7.

Baugh was the victim of a strange play that cost the Redskins a championship in another outstanding moment, the 15-14 title game loss to the Cleveland Rams in 1945. The winning margin derived from a Redskins' safety early in the game when Baugh, throwing from his own end zone, hit the goal post upright. Quar-

terbacking the winning Rams was rookie Bob Waterfield.

After the game, Rams owner Dan Reeves moved his new champions to Los Angeles. Al Davis was at that time attending high school in Brooklyn and had nothing to do with the move.

The transfer of the Rams to Los Angeles opened the way for a new team in Cleveland, the Browns, who dominated the new All-America Conference that sprang up after the war. After four years of warfare, the two leagues made peace, and the Browns were matched in their first NFL game with Neale's two-time champion Philadelphia Eagles.

The game was played Sept. 16, 1950, in Philadelphia before 71,237 fans, and, with Otto Graham throwing four touchdown passes, the upstart Browns scored a convincing 35-10 victory. Thus did a new era of pro football begin. ■



13. Steve Owen—Tackle, New York Giants, 1926-36. Coach, New York Giants, 1931-53.

14. Earle (Greasy) Neale—Coach, Philadelphia, 1941-50.

15. Ray Flaherty—End, New York Giants, 1931-35. Coach, Boston/Washington, 1936-42, 1946-48.

16. Jimmy Conzelman—Coach, Chicago Cardinals, 1940-42, 1946-48.

17. John (Paddy) Driscoll—Halfback, Staleys (Chicago Bears), 1920, 1926-29; Chicago Cardinals, 1920-25. Coach, Chicago Cardinals, 1921-22; Chicago Bears, 1956-57.

18. Harold (Red) Grange—Halfback, Chicago Bears, 1925, 1929-34; New York Yankees, 1927.

19. Ernie Nevers—Halfback, Duluth, 1926-27; Chicago Cardinals, 1929-31. Coach, Chicago Cardinals, 1929-30, 1931, 1939.

20. Jim Thorpe—Halfback, Canton, 1920, 1926; Cleveland, 1921; Oorang, 1922-23; Toledo, 1923; Rock Island, 1924; New York Giants, 1925; Chicago Cardinals, 1928.

21. Bronko Nagurski—Fullback and tackle, Chicago Bears, 1930-37, 1943.

22. Johnny Blood (McNally)—Halfback, Milwaukee, 1925-26; Duluth, 1926-27; Pottsville, 1928; Green Bay, 1929-33, 1935-36; Pittsburgh, 1934, 1937-39. Coach, Pittsburgh, 1937-39.

23. Sammy Baugh—Halfback/quarterback, Washington, 1937-52.



UNFORGETTABLES 1951-1980

The Second Half of the NFL's 60 Years Have Been Brilliant, Immensely Popular, Distinctive, and Controversial. How Will the Next 30 Years Compare?

BY VIN DITRANI



In 1951, Ed Sullivan started a Sunday night tradition that was to last for more than two decades. Each week millions of Americans would gather in front of their screens to see the "really big shoe!" Ed had planned for them this time.

Those who tuned in on the evening of December 28, 1958 witnessed Sullivan officially introduce another Sunday tradition: professional football. Just a few hours earlier John Unitas, Raymond Berry, and Alan Ameche had helped the Baltimore Colts to win the National Football League title with a thrilling overtime victory over the Giants at Yankee Stadium. The trio was whisked to Manhattan so Sullivan could present them to the American public.

Usually, Sullivan saved his sports spots for baseball players or boxing champions, but on this occasion he realized that the Colts' victory, which was seen by some 10 million television viewers, was the start of something big.

There have been longer NFL games and perhaps even more exciting ones since the Giants-Colts encounter of 1958. But no single game, not even Joe Namath's guaranteed win in Super Bowl III, had a bigger influence on the growth of professional football. The game captured the imagination of a country which had until that night considered professional football as just something for collegiate stars to do after graduation. It also captured the interest of top television management, who soon envisioned great things for a sport that appeared tailor-made for the home screen. But no one, not even the perceptive Ed Sullivan, could have foreseen the growth professional football was to achieve in the next two decades.

Actually, the beginnings of that growth dated back to 1952, when:

■ Sammy Baugh, Bob Waterfield, and Steve Van Buren, previous superstars and future Hall of Famers, all retired, but...

■ Frank Gifford, Bill George, Gino Marchetti, Ollie Matson, and Hugh McElhenny, all future superstars and Hall of Famers, entered the league.

■ The Pittsburgh Steelers finally switched from the single-wing to the T-formation, signaling the complete acceptance of the forward pass as the future way to travel.

■ The Dallas Texans succumbed to financial problems, the last team in NFL history to fold because of lack of revenue.

Then came the game. Then, in rapid-fire succession came: the Dallas Cowboys, the American Football League, progressively more lucrative TV contracts, the merger, and ultimately, the Super Bowl.

Sprinkled throughout this history were the unforgettable people and events which have stamped the National Football League as the worthy successor to Ed Sullivan as the nation's Sunday tradition.

THE OWNERS

When it became apparent the National Football League had something going, a group of six men got together and quickly earned themselves the collective name of the "Foolish Club." They were going to buck the growing NFL with their own creation, the American Football League. On August 14 1959, they announced their plans in Chicago, a city which didn't even have a franchise in the new league. In the ensuing months Buffalo and Boston joined the group, while Oakland replaced Minneapolis-St. Paul in the line-up.

The head of the original "Foolish Club" was Dallas millionaire Lamar Hunt, who had tried unsuccessfully to purchase the Chicago Cardinal franchise. "It was a fantastically exciting era," Hunt recalls. "I suppose it would have been easier to start out as part of the NFL, but frankly it wouldn't have been nearly as much fun for us."

Although he was later forced to move his own franchise from Dallas to Kansas City, Hunt patiently remained the unofficial patriarch of the new league. He finally joined the NFL via the merger, and saw his team play the Packers in the very first Super Bowl, beating the Vikings in the fourth. Eventually the one-time reserve end at SMU became the very first AFL thoroughbred to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

At the time of his induction, Hunt was proclaimed by the Patriots' Billy Sullivan to be "the architect, designer, and builder of an impossible dream." Indeed, when the World Football League folded in 1975, many cited the lack of a Lamar Hunt figure among the owners as a reason for the demise.

One of the reasons Hunt had to leave Dallas, however, was the success of the expansion NFL club in that same market. The older league decided in 1960 to return to the city of its earlier failure and granted a 13th franchise to Clint W. Murchison. In turn, Murchison turned over the daily operation of the team to a former sportswriter, publicity director, and TV sports executive named Tex Schramm. Schramm, who also had been the Rams' general manager, hired Tom Landry as his coach and the entire operation took off from there. Schramm helped package the Cowboys as "America's Team."

Dallas became the most innovative franchise of the NFL. Schramm is credited with the first extensive use of computers to make talent selection an exact science rather than



1. Alan Ameche (35) scores Baltimore Colts' first TD in second quarter of "The Greatest Game Ever Played," at Yankee Stadium, December 28, 1958. Johnny Unitas (19) led the Colts to a surprise (23-17) overtime win over the New York Giants for NFL championship.

2. Raymond Berry (82) set an NFL playoff mark with 178 yards in 12 receptions in the Baltimore Colts' 23-17 overtime win for the 1958 NFL title. The Giants defender (20) is Jim Patton.

3. Baltimore Colts' head coach Weeb Ewbank talks with his passing team, QB Johnny Unitas (19) and LE Raymond Berry (82) during Colts' NFL championship win over N.Y. Giants in overtime, 1958.

4. Halfback Lenny Moore (24) aids the Colts in the ball control department in 1958 overtime NFL championship victory over Giants, 23-17. (8 carries, 6 receptions, 124 yds.)

5. Lenny Moore's contribution to Colts' 1958 overtime championship win over Giants included 60-yard pass from Unitas. Defender (41) is Lindon Crow.



6. Baltimore's Alan Ameche scores from the New York 1-yard-line on final play of the 1958 overtime NFL championship game at Yankee Stadium. Screen block by Lenny Moore (24) on Emlen Tunnell (45) gives Ameche a big hole. Tackle by Giants' Jim Patton (20) is too late. Colts 23, Giants 17.

7. After several unsuccessful attempts to obtain an NFL franchise, Lamar Hunt (R), founded the American Football League and established the Kansas City Chiefs. Here, Hunt is inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame (1972). Presenter Billy Sullivan (L), Patriots' owner, called Hunt the architect of an impossible dream.

8. Tex Schramm, president and original general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, has built the NFL's most stable franchise and its most



successful expansion team. He had been a writer, publicist, network TV official, and a long-time executive protégé of the late Dan Reeves, owner of the Los Angeles Rams.

9. The Oakland Raiders' managing general partner, Al Davis, has been a thorn in the sides of the NFL and his fellow-owners, but his teams have been the champions of the overall won-lost marks in recent years. Davis won Super Bowl XV easily by staying with mature players and by appointing a low-key, highly respected coach.

10. Tom Landry was the Dallas Cowboys' first coach (1960), and he remains by far the NFL's senior active mentor. He may be the most stable element in the NFL's most stable franchise.

a turkey shoot.

Two of the other most noteworthy NFL executives of the period represent the opposite ends of the age spectrum. In fact, Oakland's Al Davis was only three years old when Art Rooney founded the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Depression year of 1933.

For the 81-year-old Rooney, the NFL has been a way of life, and for 50 years (until the past decade) a rather harsh way of life. The popular Irishman had to wait nearly 40 years to get his first championship, but throughout the lean years that preceded the Steelers' rise to greatness, he kept the team afloat. In 1938 he made the first big-money move in NFL history, signing Colorado All-American Byron "Whizzer" White to a \$15,800 contract.

The recent legal battles involving Al Davis and the rest of the league cannot tarnish the success that this "genius" has had in professional football. The Super Bowl XV title his team unexpectedly grabbed last January is only another prize for the man some say is trying to run (while others say trying to ruin) the National Football League.

In April of 1966, Davis ceased to be the coach and managing general partner of the Raiders and became the last commissioner of the American Football League. Suddenly, two months into his reign, Davis was surprised to learn that the NFL and AFL had agreed to merge. Negotiations had occurred without his knowledge, orchestrated by Lamar Hunt and Tex Schramm with the clandestine assistance of the Rams' Dan Reeves, Buffalo's Ralph Wilson, and the NFL commissioner, Pete Rozelle. The negotiators simply had preferred to bypass Davis rather than to invite his participation in their plans. The merger quickly was ratified and Davis returned to his Raiders.

Since then, Oakland has won nine division titles, three AFL-AFC championships and two Super Bowls. Over that period, the Raiders have garnered the best team won-lost percentage in the combined leagues.

THE COACHES

As soon as Alan Ameche lunged for the touchdown that ended the 1958 championship game, two of the Giants' assistant coaches packed their clipboards for another season. Vince Lombardi, who coached the offense under Jim Lee Howell, would be un-

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packing his in Green Bay the next year. Tom Landry, who took care of the Giants' defense, would be carrying his to Dallas the year after.

Landry was to head up an expansion club, while Lombardi took over a 1-10-1 team many thought to be worse off than an expansion outfit. Yet, in less than a decade the two stood across from each other in a pair of the most memorable NFL championship games.

The two were similar in their beliefs in discipline and organization as the cornerstones to any successful venture. But they were very different in other ways, including personality.

Lombardi was gruff and outwardly demanding of his players. He sometimes scared them into performing well, although he always kept tabs on those he knew he had to pamper if they were to help him on Sunday. He also believed in the basics, so his Packers never killed the opposition with finesse, they just overpowered them into the ground. His nine-year Green Bay record was an amazing 89-29-1, with five NFL titles and two Super Bowl crowns, transforming the Wisconsin hamlet into "Titletown U.S.A."

Unlike Lombardi, Tom Landry rarely shows emotion, a trait which caused running back Duane Thomas to label him "Plastic Man." While Lombardi opted to go with the tried and tested, Landry is an innovator. His playbooks, both offensive and defensive, are the "War and Peace" of the NFL. He has employed the shotgun on offense, the flex on defense, and uses more motion than the punkest of the punk-rock groups.

His Cowboys have made the playoffs 14 of the past 15 years and Landry has done well enough to win two and lose three Super Bowls. His 184 regular-season wins rank him third on the all-time win list and tops among the active coaches.

While Lombardi and Landry were disappointed that unforgettable Sunday afternoon in 1958, a man on the other sideline was overjoyed. Colts' coach Weeb Ewbank was to finish his coaching career with only one more regular-season win than he had losses. But he also was the winning coach in perhaps the two most important games in the history of pro football: that 1958 NFL title game, and Super Bowl III in 1969, when his Jets upset his (heavily favored) former Baltimore team.

Ewbank was at his best developing quarterbacks like Unitas and Namath into championship caliber. He learned the importance of a great signal caller while an assistant in Cleveland to Paul Brown, another of the great innovators of pro football. Brown used Otto Graham to help him establish superiority in the All-America Football Conference before joining the NFL in 1950.

Brown was the first to employ full-time coaching staffs, to demand precise routes of all receivers, and to send in plays via the messenger system. Before retiring, he had accumulated seven divisional titles, three league championships, and only one losing season in Cleveland. Later, he headed for the other end of Ohio to start the expansion Cincinnati Bengals in 1968.

Two of Brown's players used their background with this mentally demanding boss to launch successful coaching careers of their own. Don Shula had the Miami Dolphins headed for the title of Team of the '70s until Chuck Noll and the Steelers suddenly appeared to

claim the honor.

Shula, who had great success in Baltimore (save the Super Bowl III loss to the Colts), molded the expansion Dolphins into a three-time Super Bowl entry and two-time winner in the early '70s. At their peak, Shula's Dolphins went through the entire 1972 season, including Super Bowl VII, without a defeat. While Noll's Steelers never were unbeaten, they nevertheless captured four Super Bowl titles in the final six seasons of the decade. Noll, like Shula, is a no-nonsense individual. He did a masterful building job, considering that his first season of 1969 produced only one win in 14 tries. His use of the draft as the building mechanism helped other teams realize the value of their choices in the yearly grab-bag.

THE PLAYERS

The NFL draft formerly was held during the season, with teams selecting in inverse order of the current standings. In November of 1956, for instance, Philadelphia was just a little better than Cleveland at the time of the draft. So the Browns, who eventually finished ahead of the Eagles, were allowed to pick first.

Philly had its heart set on a running back named Jim Brown, but Paul Brown beat the

Eagles to the Syracuse star. In nine years, Jim Brown went on to earn the questionable title of greatest runner of all time. He accumulated a record-breaking 12,312 yards, failing to top the 1000-yard mark only twice. He also caught 262 passes and scored 126 touchdowns.

Perhaps his most impressive statistic of all, however, was never missing a game in his nine-year career. He would have added to all his marks had he not retired in 1966 at age 30, to embark on a movie career, coming off a 1544-yard season. Ironically, he might have accomplished all that for the Eagles, instead of the Browns, had the draft been held after the 1956 season.

Many have challenged Brown's hold on the greatest runner title, with current challengers including Houston's unstoppable Earl Campbell, probably the closest man to Brown in speed and power, and Chicago's great Walter Payton. But the two most exciting challengers of that period were Gale Sayers, the man who could make a 180-degree change of direction quicker than any other human, and the brilliant O. J. Simpson, who set the single-season rushing mark of 2003 yards in 1973.

If Jim Brown had come close to becoming an Eagle, John Unitas came even closer to becoming a Steeler. In fact, the lanky, sometimes awkward-looking passer, had a trial in the Pittsburgh camp in 1955, but was cut so that veteran Jim Finks could be retained.



11. Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi accepts trophy (later to be named for him) as winner of Super Bowl I, presented by NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle, January 15, 1967. The Packers defeated Kansas City.

12. Weeb Ewbank coached the Colts to victory over the Giants in the NFL title game of 1958 and the Jets to their upset over the Colts in Super Bowl III, two unforgettable games in NFL history.



13. Paul Brown was the first coach of an NFL competitor (Cleveland, AAFC) to make a big splash in the NFL. His Cleveland Browns were innovators and respected upstarts through several unforgettably successful early years of NFL affiliation, beginning in 1950.



14. Don Shula, a protege of Paul Brown, has been acclaimed by many as the coach whose innovations have created a statistical superiority for the AFC over the NFC in the won-lost columns. His Dolphins have won two Super Bowls.

When Finks retired the next season, Unitas was the recipient of an 80-cent phone call from Baltimore general manager Don Kellett. The rest is history.

Unitas was to roll up 40,239 yards on 2830 completions in 18 seasons, all but one with the Colts. His teamwork with his wide receiver Raymond Berry was so perfected, that one evening they completed nine out of 10 square outs on timing and instinct alone, in a completely darkened stadium!

While Unitas accomplished it all in the classic dropback method, another quarterback was compiling stats which eventually would surpass Johnny U.—and doing it on the run! Fran Tarkenton began scrambling out of necessity with the expansion Vikings in 1961. By the time he was finished in 1978, he had set NFL records for attempts (6469), completions (3686), yards (47,003), and TDs (342). He also led the Vikings to three Super Bowl appearances in his second stint with the Vikes, after five seasons with the New York Giants.

While Tarkenton accomplished it all on quick feet and a so-so arm, another quarterback was succeeding with a pair of gimpy knees, a rifle arm, and a fast lifestyle. Joe Namath assured himself of immortality when, three days before Super Bowl III, he guaranteed a Jets victory, despite overwhelming odds. Had it not been for a series of injuries, Namath might well have topped all of the NFL standards.

Other runners, like Paul Hornung, Jim Taylor, Franco Harris, and Larry Csonka, plus other passers like Norm Van Brocklin, Bobby Layne, Roger Staubach, George Blanda, Terry Bradshaw, Len Dawson, and Bart Starr, plus receivers like Lionel and Charley Taylor, Lance Alworth, Fred Biletnikoff, Don Maynard, John Stallworth and Lynn Swann, contributed to the greatness of the era.

So did offensive linemen like Rosey Brown, Jim Parker, Ron Mix, Larry Little, and Gene Upshaw, plus defenders like Dick Butkus, Deacon Jones, Gino Marchetti, Merlin Olsen, Bob Lilly, Ed Meador, Joe Greene, Carl Eller, Sam Huff, Larry Wilson, Willie Brown, and Chuck Bednarik. The latter played 58 minutes of the Eagles' 1960 NFL title victory over Green Bay.

But the efforts of the owners, coaches, and players surfaced best in some of the great games of the era, starting with that Colts-Giants clash of 1958.

THE GAMES

The two had met during the regular season at Yankee Stadium, with the Giants winning, 24-21. This time the Colts jumped out to a 14-3 halftime lead, only to see it vanish on two Giant second-half TDs. Unitas, who passed for 349 yards, directed a last-gasp drive that resulted in Steve Myrha's tying field goal with seven seconds remaining in regulation time.

The Giants won the overtime toss, but

couldn't make a first down and punted. Unitas took the Colts 80 yards in 13 plays, capped by Ameche's one-yard burst off the right side for the 23-17 win at 8:15 of the extra period.

The Colt fans had plenty to celebrate that night as their heroes made the national TV appearance on Sullivan's stage. But a decade later there was no joy in Colville.

That was the day Namath made good on his guarantee. He didn't exactly fill the air with footballs, as Unitas had done 10 years earlier. Instead he let Matt Snell (121 yards and a TD) and Jim Turner (three field goals) do most of the offensive damage. Meanwhile, the Jets defense throttled Earl Morrall and allowed only a late touchdown when a guy named Unitas came on in relief. "Welcome to the American Football League," Turner said to the disbelieving writers who flocked the Jets' locker room after the 16-7 win.

Neither of the above games, however, had any play as unforgettable as the one that decided the 1972 Steeler-Raider playoff game. It has become known as the "Immaculate Reception." Never before, and not since, has a more bizarre play decided such a significant football game.

The situation: Pittsburgh, trailing 7-6, had the ball fourth-and-10 on its own 40 with just 22 seconds left. Quarterback Terry Bradshaw faded to pass, but was rushed out of the pocket by Tony Cline and Horace Jones.

Finally, he desperately threw the ball to-



15



16



17



18

15. Jim Brown often is termed the greatest NFL runner of all time. Without question he was the most prolific (12,312 yards) and the most durable (no absences in nine years), two categories high on the list of qualifications.

16. The Bears' Gale Sayers has been called by George Halas the greatest runner he ever coached, and that includes Grange, Nagurski and the men who ran over the Redskins, 73-0, in a title game. Sayers' career was shortened by injuries, but no one was more exciting in an NFL open field.

17. The most prolific forward passer of all time was Fran Tarkenton, who set NFL marks in attempts, completions, yards and TDs, in a long career with the Vikings and Giants.

18. QB Joe Namath gained national acclaim with his rifle arm and a daring (but correct) prediction that his Jets would upset Baltimore in Super Bowl III. Gimpy knees later reduced his effectiveness in a shortened career.

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wards Frenchy Fuqua, but the pass was knocked away by Jack Tatum, colliding with the receiver. Along came rookie Franco Harris, however, to clutch the ball before it hit the ground and ramble to a touchdown through the stunned Raiders.

The aftermath was chaotic. Steeler fans swarmed the field to congratulate their heroes, who were embarking on their era of excellence. The game officials contacted

league representatives in the press box to make sure the play was legal. Simultaneous touch was the final verdict. The play would stand. The Steelers had won.

Utter disbelief was etched on John Madden's face following the game. The Raiders' shock was somewhat reminiscent of the back-to-back suffering the Cowboys went through in the NFL title games of 1967 and 1968.

The first time, the upstart Cowboys fell an end zone interception short of the Packers, 34-27. The second time was the famous Frostbite Bowl in Green Bay on New Year's Eve day in 1967. The 13th franchise lost in

13-below temperatures and with 13 seconds left when quarterback Bart Starr lunged into the end zone behind Jerry Kramer's block on Jethro Pugh for the 21-17 win.

Thus Dallas was a total of 11 points short of appearing in the first two Super Bowls.

Few Super Bowls have been unforgettable. Two of the Steeler wins, the 31-19 triumph over Vince Ferragamo and the upstart Rams in Super Bowl XIV, and the 35-31 triumph over Dallas in Super Bowl XIII, were two of the more memorable games.

But neither was in the class of the Christmas Day, 1971, AFC playoff meeting between the Dolphins and Chiefs. It was football's Longest Day—82 minutes, 40 seconds before Garo Yepremian's second-overtime, 37-yard field goal gave Miami a 27-24 win.

Now that's unforgettable! ■



19. "The Immaculate Reception." In the 1972 Steelers-Raiders playoff, the Steelers, trailing with seconds left in the game, attempted to pass to Fuqua (33), but the pass bounced off defender Tatum (31), was caught at shoetop level by Harris (32) who scored to give the game to Pittsburgh.

20. An historical moment. Green Bay QB Bart Starr (15) follows guard Jerry Kramer's (64) block on Dallas' Jethro Pugh (75) to score on QB sneak with 13 seconds left and the clock moving in the NFL championship game of December 31, 1967. The TD gave Packers a 21-17 win in the coldest game in NFL playoff history.

21. The end of a perfect day—for Miami, that is. Garo Yepremian kicks a 37-yard FG in the second overtime on Christmas Day, 1971, to give Dolphins a playoff win over Kansas City, 27-24. This was pro football's longest game.

Where Are They Now?

If you were to ask Sammy Baugh, Charlie Malone, Cliff Battles, or Riley Smith to name football's longest day, none is likely to say it was Miami's Christmas Day win over Kansas City in 1971. Instead, the answer more probably would be, "That game on December 8, 1940."

On that date, 364 days before Pearl Harbor, the Chicago Bears pulled a sneak attack on the Washington Redskins, in Washington, winning 73-0 and humiliating Baugh, Malone, Battles, Smith, and such other now-departed stars as Ernie Pinckert, Wayne Millner, and Turk Edwards.

The Bears were awesome.

Owner-coach George Halas had been modernizing the old T-formation after returning to it several years earlier. And it jelled just in time for the most lopsided win in the history of NFL title games.

The captain of the Bears that day was Danny Fortmann, a perennial All-Pro, playing both left guard and linebacker at 210 pounds. Now, he is Dr. Daniel J. Fortmann, prominent surgeon who has rotated in and out of the chief of staff position at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California.

When Fortmann was drafted by Chicago on the last round of the very first NFL draft (1936), he didn't understand he was not a free agent, and tried to ignore the Bears in order to play for the New York Giants, who had to explain the draft to him. Fortmann, age 19 and a Phi Beta Kappa, fresh out of Colgate University, then hitchhiked to Chicago where he found ultimate football fame and medical prominence.

By the time of the 73-0 rout in Washington, Fortmann had completed med school at the University of Chicago and was serving as an intern in Detroit between football seasons. But in the world of student medicine, Fortmann was known to a handful of admiring administrators who marveled at his ability to make such steady progress in difficult courses while spending full-time as an All-Pro captain of pro football's most prestigious team.

Would Fortmann have become a doctor if his pro football opportunity had come during today's era of big salaries?

"Oh, I think so," says Dr. Fortmann. "In my family it was assumed, always, that I would be a doctor. I played football with the Bears for two reasons. In a practical sense, I needed the money to pay my way through med school, and from an emotional consideration, I loved the game, anyway."

Dr. Fortmann still has the coin which



Danny Fortmann-1939

was flipped at the start of the unforgettable 73-0 win over the Skins. As the team captain who won the toss, he got to keep it and it has become a memento on his wife's necklace.

His most unforgettable teammate? Joe Stydahar.

"Joe Stydahar played right alongside me, and I thought he was the best tackle I ever saw. We played both ways, of course, but today he could be an All-Pro either way, offense or defense. He was a snooper. When the other team was huddling, Joe always was checking them out trying to find clues to help diagnose the next play."

And his most unforgettable opponent?

"Don Hutson or Buckets Goldenberg, both of Green Bay. I marveled at Hutson, the best end I ever saw, and Buckets gave me all I could handle. We were one-on-one across that line 17 times in our careers."

At 210 pounds, Fortmann is considered, in retrospect, to have been a small lineman. "Not so," he says. "Remember, we had to go both ways, and if I had been as big as today's guards, I never would have been mobile enough to be a linebacker on defense."

Fortmann started his Bears career in 1936 at a salary of \$110 a game, but at that, he says, it was far better than most of the Bears of 1934. "In 1934,



Daniel J. Fortmann, M.D.-1981

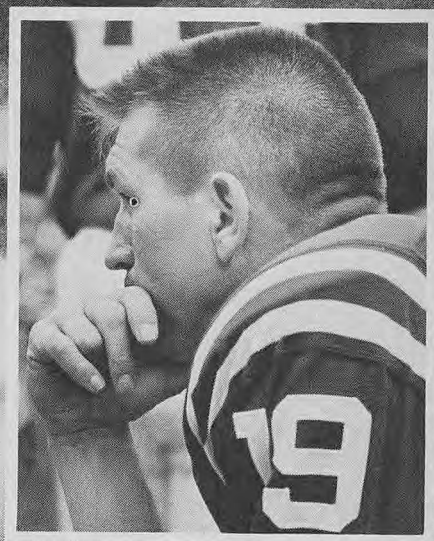
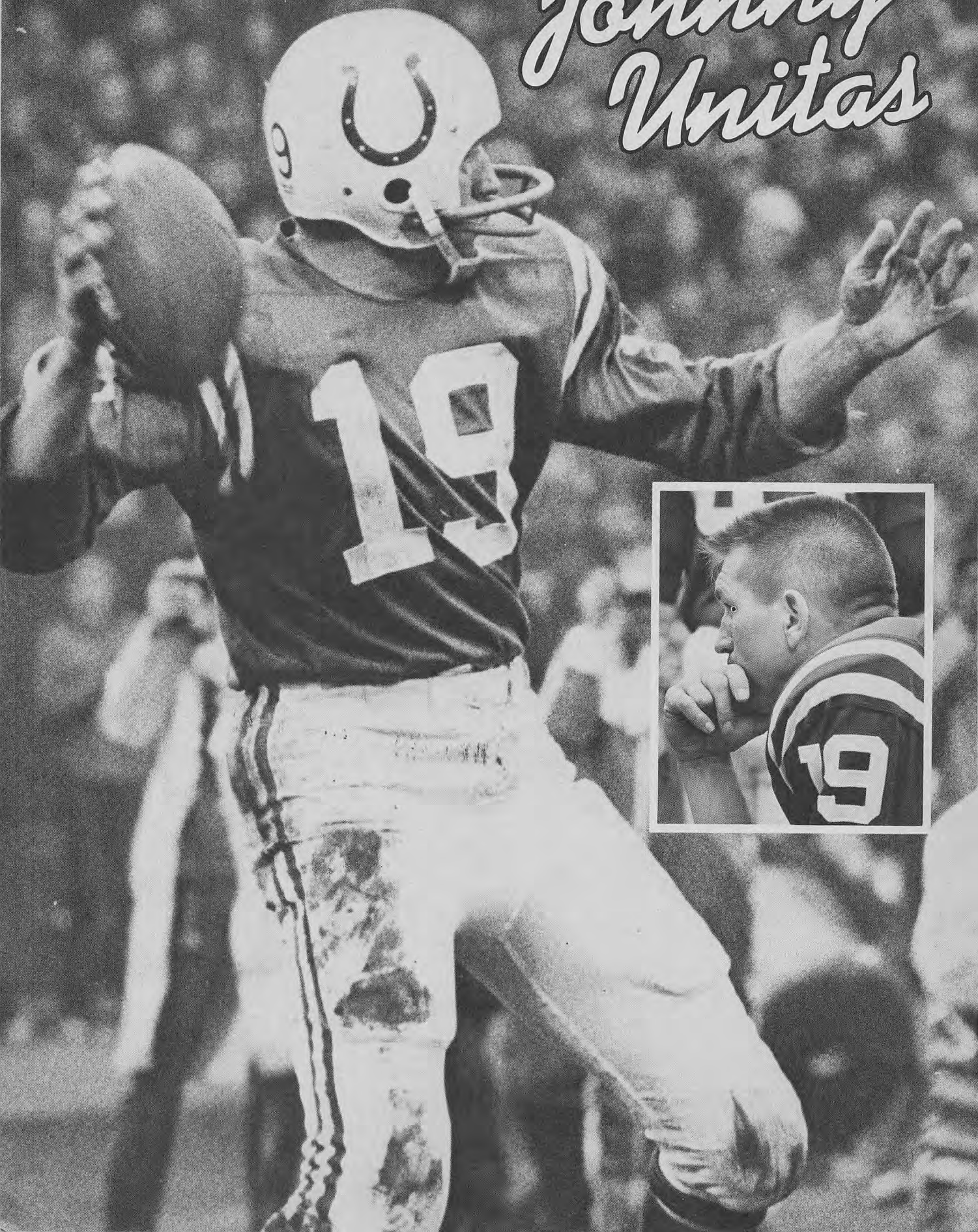
midway through the season, George Halas told his players they would have to take a 50 percent cut or the franchise would be shut down. The team was broke. My fellow guard, George Musso, was cut from \$90 to \$45 a game."

Dr. Fortmann was the second guard to be named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and after he retired as a player he served the L.A. Rams for many years as team physician.

He might well have played his college football at Notre Dame or at any of the big grid schools, but when he entered college, his focus was on med school, and the All-Pro-to-be selected Colgate simply because its Depression tuition of \$300 was within his reach. He remains a symbol of Colgate's proud athletic tradition. ■

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*Johnny
Unitas*





He had his heart set on attending one of the big-time football schools—Notre Dame, Pitt, or maybe

Indiana. They told him to forget it.

Later, he hoped to play pro football for his hometown team, the Pittsburgh Steelers. Forget it, they advised, as they handed him \$10 for bus fare home.

He put the \$10 in his pocket and hitchhiked his way into the world of semipro football, where the pay was \$6 per game. Pregame warmups included sprinkling the barren field with oil to keep the dust down.

Later the rejections and hard times of the early years would serve to enhance the legend of John Unitas, a truly unforgettable rags to riches story.

Unitas was unforgettable in so many ways. Subject of the most improbable Cinderella sports story ever told. Hero of "The Greatest Game Ever Played." And most important, unforgettable because he was the most daring, deadliest passer who ever played pro

football.

He didn't look the part: stooped shoulders, slightly bowed legs, hair in a bristle-brush crewcut long after that style had faded from fashion, high-top shoes. Nobody else looked like Unitas. Nobody else played like Unitas, either.

When pro football celebrated its 50th birthday in 1972, he was cited as the best quarterback the game had ever seen. And when the 100th anniversary comes, No. 19 will still be No. 1. There never had been one like him before, and considering the special combination of qualities, physical and psychological, that set him apart, there probably never will be another.

He was one of a kind, the standard-setter to whom all the rest have been compared.

His route to success was filled with improbable obstacles and coincidences along the way.

He was lucky to survive childhood. At age four, he fell from the truck his father was driving and only an inch or so separated him from the truck's rear wheels. Later he managed to shoot himself twice in separate incidents while a boy, once in the leg and once in the hand.

And then there were his football

problems. A high school halfback of undistinguished ability, he became a quarterback only because the school's regular QB suffered a broken ankle. After graduation from high school, he was turned down following tryouts at Notre Dame and Indiana and was refused admission into Pitt. He settled for Louisville.

Four years later (three of them losing seasons), he was drafted in the ninth round by the Steelers. In training camp he was ignored by coach Walt Kiesling, who preferred to retain Jim Finks, Ted Marchibroda, and Vic Eaton as his quarterbacks.

"Kiesling didn't pay much attention to me," Unitas recalled later. "He paid more attention to the assistant clubhouse boy. I don't think he would have known I was there if the Associated Press hadn't put out a picture of me showing a Chinese nun visiting training camp how to hold a football. That picture got printed everywhere, and Kiesling found out I was there."

Not that the coach cared. Unitas was cut in that summer of '55 and given \$10 bus fare from the team's training camp at Olean, N.Y., to Pittsburgh.



Nearly four years after his retirement, Johnny "U" was called back into his Baltimore uniform for a halftime ceremony on "Johnny Unitas Day." No shoulder pads, but he wore his famous high-top shoes.

Unitas

He played semipro ball for the Bloomfield Rams in Pittsburgh, the team's highest-paid player at \$6 per game. "It wasn't the money," he said. "It was just that a football team wanted me. That's what was important."

Word of his Bloomfield heroics made its way to Baltimore via anonymous postcards to Colt coach Weeb Ewbank. "There's a boy in sandlot ball here," said one card, "playing for the Bloomfield Rams, who's worth looking at. His name's John Unitas."

Ewbank never learned who sent the postcards, but he never discarded the possibility that it was Unitas himself, although the quarterback always denied it.

Whatever the source of the inspiration, it had its desired effect. Colts' general manager Don Kellest phoned Unitas in January 1956, when it became apparent that Gary Kerkorian, one of two Colt QBs, was quitting football to attend law school.

Unitas was signed to a contract for \$7000, made the team, and became the regular quarterback in the fourth game of the year when starter George Shaw damaged a knee in a game against the Chicago Bears.

How did Unitas debut into the NFL?

His first pass went for a 59-yard touchdown—by the Chicago Bears, whose J. C. Caroline intercepted and scored en route to a 58-27 Chicago victory.

In time Unitas would improve.

He was on the Pro Bowl squad in 1957, his second season. But it wasn't until the 1958 championship game that he became a nationally-acclaimed superstar.

There had been championship games before, but none quite like this one. It was in New York; the Giants were the opponents, and national TV was there.

The Giants had a 17-14 lead, but the Colts had the ball at their own 14 with 1:56 left in the game. On third and 10, Unitas completed an 11-yarder to Lenny Moore. Then he sliced the Giants apart with passes of 25, 16, and 21 yards to Raymond Berry, setting up a Steve Myhra field goal that forced the first overtime in championship game history.

The Colts got the ball at their own

20 in overtime, and 13 plays later they had a touchdown when Alan Ameche scored on a one-yard run. Along the way, Unitas hit four of five passes, giving him game totals of 26 of 40 for 361 yards.

"Unitas was a genius," said New York linebacker Sam Huff. "I never saw a quarterback so good as he was in those two drives."

And pro football was never the same again. It could have been just another game, but Unitas had made it something special, treating the entire country to unprecedented drama in a football championship game. From that time on, pro football popularity zoomed.

"The game caused a lot of excitement," said Unitas, "but to me it was just another game, one we had to win. We were so disgusted when we got the ball back for that final series in regulation time that we struck back at the Giants in sort of a blind fury."

Of the "we" who struck back, no one did it as lethally as Unitas. He rebelled against the notion of impending defeat in those final seconds with a cold-blooded fury that made him seem a miracle worker.

It was in situations like that, in the last two minutes of a game, that Unitas was at his best. Give him the ball and



After 17 amazing seasons with Baltimore, Unitas found that injuries and time had slowed his pace. But joining San Diego for just one more season (1973), he exceeded the 40,000 mark in career yardage, the first NFL passer to do so.

two minutes, and you'd better have a big lead or he'd leave you for dead.

There were many facets of quarterbacking at which he excelled, many pillars for the Unitas legend to stand on, but none was more important than what he could do in those final minutes when a game was on the line.

"I don't know what Unitas uses for blood," said coach Sid Gillman, "but whatever it is, I'll guarantee you it isn't warm. It's ice cold."

"He's impervious to pressure," said Ewbank, "and he's got a good reason for doing everything he does."

"I get a little excited," Unitas admitted, "but I try not to show it. There's nothing frantic about play in the last two minutes, at least not on my ballclub. I know what's got to be done. And I always figured that if I had done my job a little better in the first 58 minutes, we wouldn't be needing a touchdown to win at the end."

The record books show he wasn't bad in those first 58 minutes either.

There were some quarterbacks who were better physically, but none was more clearly master of the psychological aspect of the game—the most important factor in winning.

The most memorable image of Unitas the quarterback is the one of Unitas the fearless gambler, the quick-draw artist who rarely could be beaten, and never outsmarted.

Defensive backs suffered most at the hands of Unitas, and defensive backs gave him the highest praise.

They would try to disguise their coverages, to make changes designed to confuse, but their efforts usually failed.

"You couldn't fool him," said cornerback Willie Brown. "Unitas knew. No matter what you did, Unitas knew."

"Playing against Unitas was like being the turkey in a turkey shoot," said John Symank, once a defensive back for the Green Bay Packers, now an assistant coach at Baltimore. "You knew you had to get hit, you just didn't know when it would happen. Unitas always did the unexpected at the right time. He always had a gimmick play. You never knew when he'd use it, and you drove yourself half-crazy worrying

about it."

Unitas was as precise as a surgeon, cleverly carving a defense with passes to Raymond Berry, a slice here, a little chunk there, moving 10 or 12 yards at a time.

But there was also Unitas the bomber, launching long ones to Lenny Moore and Jimmy Orr. In 1959 he set a league record with 32 touchdown passes in a 12-game season. He had at least two TD passes in every game that year, and in half the games he threw for three touchdowns. His record of 47 consecutive games with one or more touchdown passes may prove to be pro football's most enduring mark.

He holds the distinction of being the only quarterback who ever led a team to a championship in a season in which he called more passes than running plays, a feat he accomplished in 1970. Going against the traditional theory that you must run to win, Unitas took the Colts to the Super Bowl with a pass-oriented ball control offense, piling up yardage with short- and medium-range passes to a receiver corps of Eddie Hinton, Jimmy Orr, John Mackey, and Tom Matte.

"A defense always gives you something," Unitas said. "You just have to work until you find it. The whole secret is to keep the other team off balance. The bomb always was a favorite of mine. When you hit, you not only get big yardage but you also shake up the defense. When you're unorthodox, you give the defense more to worry about."

Defenses gave him something to worry about, too. He had numerous injuries during his 17 years with the Colts, but he remained relentless.

"You can't intimidate him," said Merlin Olsen, the Rams' Hall of Fame pass rusher. "He waits until the last possible second to release the ball, even if it means he is going to take a good lick. When he sees us coming, he knows it's going to hurt, but he just stands there and takes it. No other quarterback has such class. It seems that when he sees you coming out of the corner of his eye, he holds the ball a split second longer than he has to, just to let you know he isn't afraid of you. And then he throws it on the

button."

"He can take a physical beating for three quarters," said Green Bay cornerback Herb Adderley, another Hall of Famer, "but he doesn't lose his touch. And then he beats you in the last five minutes."

The Unitas file in the Colt team physician's office grew to impressive size over the years—broken vertebra, broken ribs, punctured lung, torn Achilles tendon, knee injuries, serious arm problems—but the Unitas of 39 was every bit as dangerous as the Unitas of 29.

There was the unforgettable game between Baltimore and the New York Jets in 1972, for example, when Unitas and Joe Namath hooked up in one of the most remarkable duels in pro football history.

At the end, the Jets had won 44-34, and Namath had passed for 496 yards. But this was Namath in his prime, while the Colts had a 39-year old codger who passed for a mere 376 yards, the fourth-best game of his career.

"When they had to score," said Namath, "Unitas was perfect, absolutely perfect. I can't imagine a quarterback playing a better game."

Unitas spent the final season of his career—1973—with the San Diego Chargers, traded away in a general purge by Colts' general manager Joe Thomas. He played one year with the Chargers, then quit early in training camp the following season, conceding that at age 41, his legs no longer could carry him through another NFL campaign.

When he retired, he had accumulated 2830 completions on 5186 attempts. He had 290 touchdowns and 40,239 yards, all NFL records at that time.

With the change in NFL rules that makes air yardage easier, passing statistics have been hit by tremendous inflation. Even mediocre quarterbacks are piling up big yardage. Some of the Unitas records have been broken and others probably will fall in the future. But although his records may fall, John Unitas will stand as the most unforgettable quarterback pro football ever knew. ■

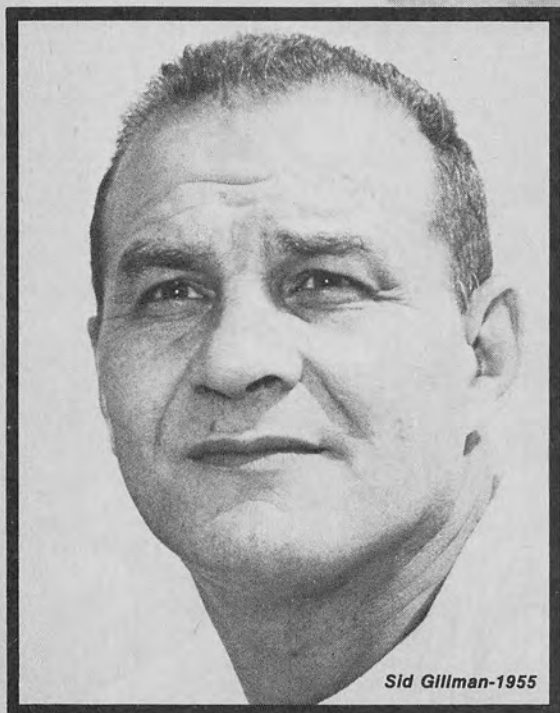
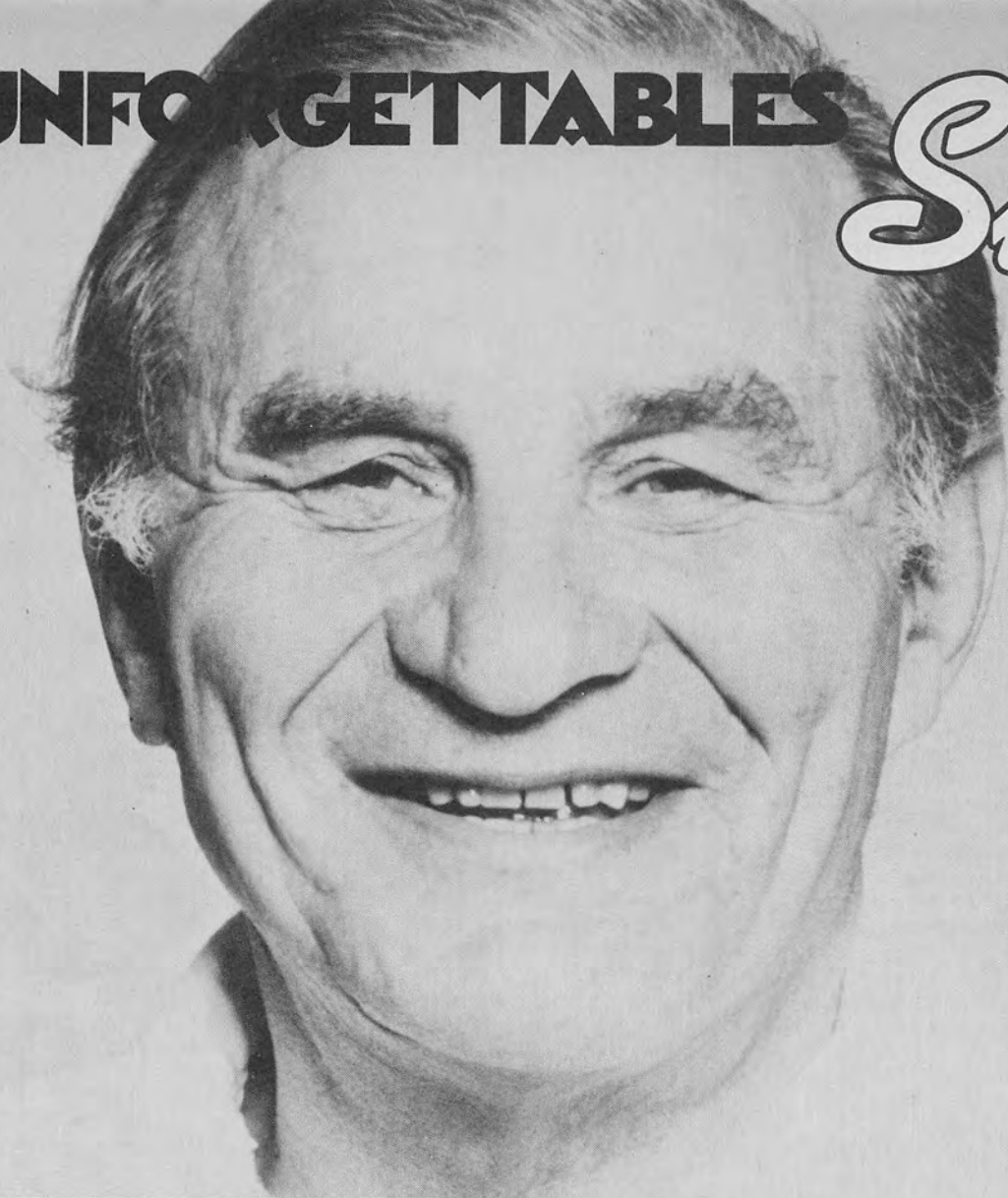
JOHNNY UNITAS' ALL-TIME NFL PASSING RECORDS

Year	Team	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Int.
1956	Baltimore	198	110	1498	7.57	9	10
1957	Baltimore	301	172	2550	8.47	24	17
1958	Baltimore	263	136	2007	7.63	19	7
1959	Baltimore	367	193	2899	7.90	32	14
1960	Baltimore	378	190	3099	8.20	25	24
1961	Baltimore	420	229	2990	7.12	16	24
1962	Baltimore	389	222	2967	7.63	23	23
1963	Baltimore	410	237	3481	8.49	20	12
1964	Baltimore	305	158	2824	9.26	19	6
1965	Baltimore	282	164	2530	8.97	23	12
1966	Baltimore	438	195	2748	7.90	22	24
1967	Baltimore	346	255	3428	7.86	20	16
1968	Baltimore	32	11	139	4.34	2	4
1969	Baltimore	327	178	2342	7.16	12	20
1970	Baltimore	321	166	2213	6.89	14	18
1971	Baltimore	176	92	942	5.35	3	9
1972	Baltimore	157	88	1111	7.08	4	6
1973	San Diego	76	34	471	6.20	3	7
18 yrs.		5186	2830	40,239	7.76	290	253



UNFORGETTABLES

Sid



Sid Gillman-1955



Sid Gillman-1980

Gillman

Though Johnny Unitas was capable of beating you with the deep bomb, he came into the National Football League just as the coaches were beginning to set up proper defenses against the long pass, which had been the weapon of the early fifties. And Unitas adjusted well.

That's the way it has been throughout the history of the game. You'll read the quotes in yellowed clippings, and you'll hear it on today's interview shows: "The defenses are now catching up with the offenses," or "the offenses are now catching up with the defenses."

In the early fifties, the defensive lines primarily were maintained by five men, with three linebackers, two halfbacks, and a single safety. Meanwhile, in the relatively new two-platoon rules, offensive strategists began to develop such specialists as the Rams' Bob Waterfield and Norm Van Brocklin, passing to receivers Elroy Hirsch, Tom Fears, and Bob Boyd. The Rams of 1950 and '51 set many offensive marks which are still in existence in today's NFL record books.

To stop the Rams, the defense switched its emphasis to zones, with twin safeties and halfbacks. Often four rushers were augmented by versatile linebackers who could red dog, the defense Greasy Neale perfected, to ruin the passer's timing or who could drop back to form effective zones against the bomb.

At that point, Sid Gillman came into the NFL from Cincinnati University and became the last head coach ever to begin his first NFL year without the help of any other coach with NFL coaching experience. Yet, in that 1955 season, Gillman's Rams won the western division championship, with Norm Van Brocklin maturing into a marvelous strategist on the field, using short passes and the runs of Ron Waller to set up a ball control offense, the perfect complement to a defensive emphasis.

But Gillman never seemed happy as a defensive-emphasis coach. During his five years with the Rams, he spent most evenings in his own garage, where he made more use of game films than any NFL predecessor. And if you get Sid in just the right mood today, he'll tell you that he spent a huge portion of that time studying the game's great passing personnel, and developing his own ideas of how to swing the emphasis back to the forward pass as the only real cinch

weapon, despite Cleveland's success with the talents of fullback Jim Brown.

Gillman never quite got his love for the pass under control with the Rams. He was held back by two major problems: He was badly handicapped by his (and his staff's) NFL inexperience, and he was unable to resolve the problem that arose when Bill Wade demanded, and got, Gillman's assurance that he would start at least half of the 1956 games at quarterback, leaving a highly talented Van Brocklin in a 50 percent stew for the year. Ultimately, Van Brocklin was traded, Wade was a semi-success with a floundering Ram team, and Gillman lost his job.

But the AFL was a whole new challenge. As a charter coach there in 1960, Sid was the most experienced coach in the league, and the time was perfect for him to develop a strong, vital passing game. Quarterback Jack Kemp, now a congressman from New York, became an enthusiastic student of Gillman's theories, as did receiver Lance Alworth, and before long Gillman's Chargers were the offensive envy of all other teams in the AFL.

The seasons have gone by and now Gillman has begun a 70th year of life. But in Los Angeles, San Diego, Houston, Chicago, and Philadelphia, Gillman has been more and more in demand as the sage of the pro passing offense. Last season, Eagle coach Dick Vermeil was able to guide Gillman's enthusiasm with proper restraint, while,

at the same time, gulping down a feast of Gillman tips and game plans. Many have said that Gillman's work in developing Ron Jaworski was highly instrumental in assisting Vermeil and company to reach Super Bowl XV.

At this writing, Gillman has retired again, but we rather suspect that by the time you read this, he may well be interrupting his piano playing (which he handles with professionalism) often enough to stay current as an expert analyst of game strategy.

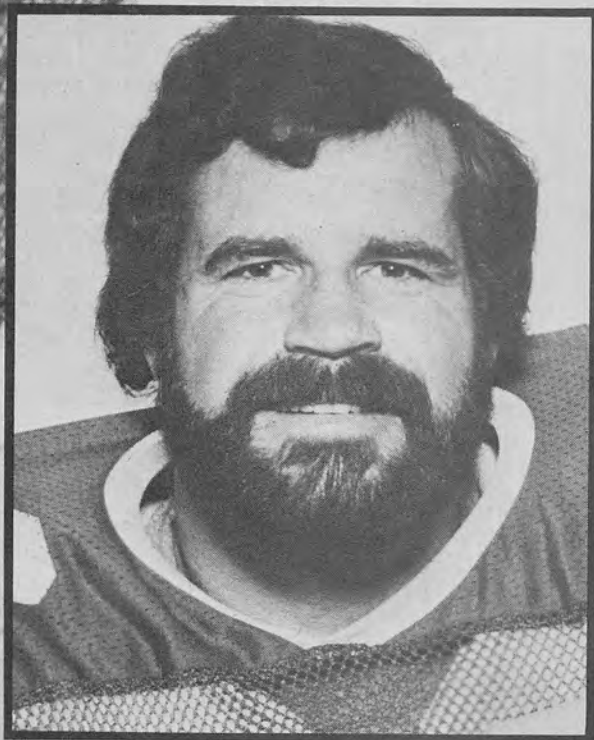
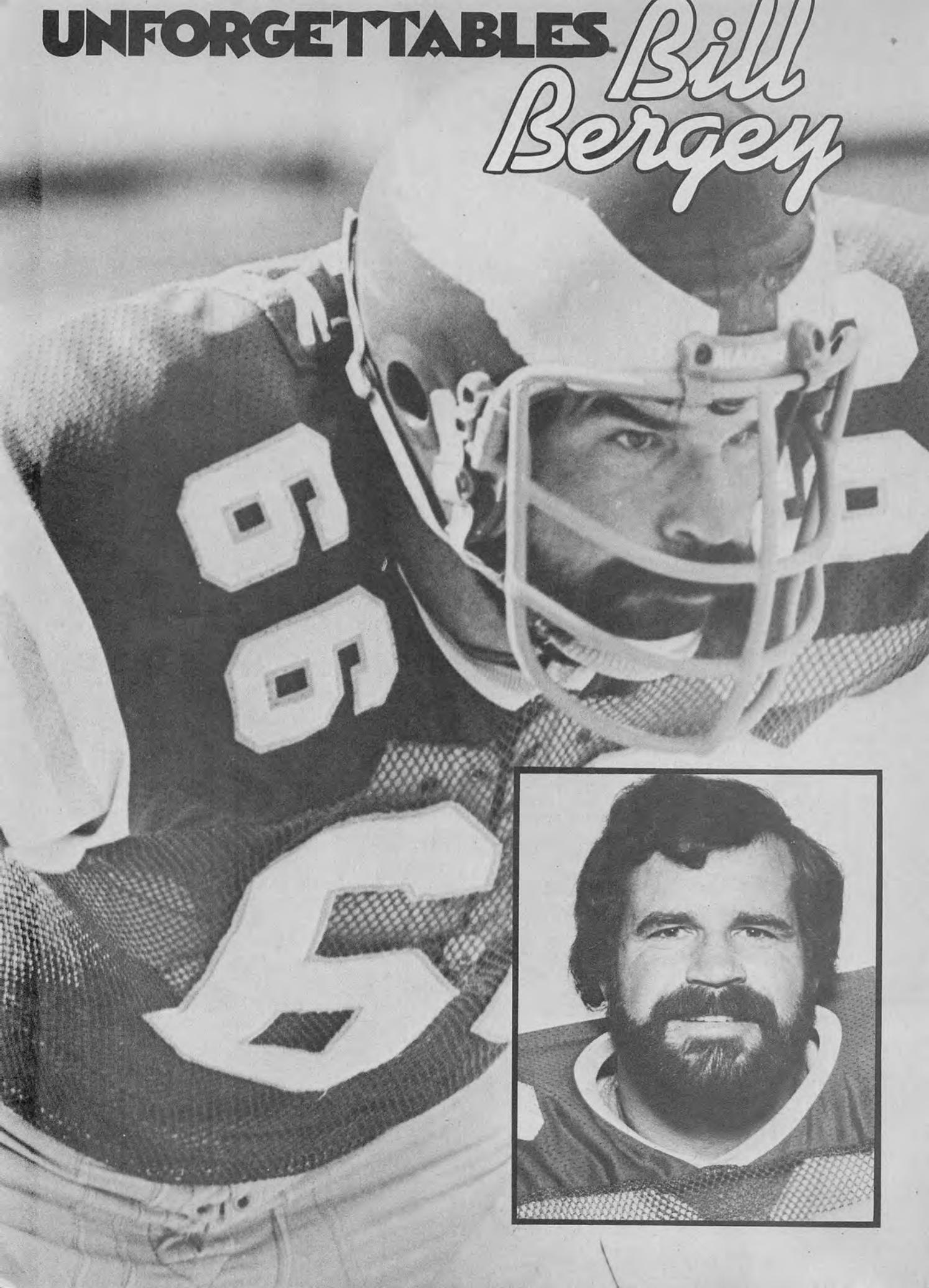
Somebody may already have signed him. Surely, if not, he has received pleading invitations to come and help some team in need of that special coaching touch which Gillman will be capable of contributing for another decade or so. His contributions to 25 NFL years already are unforgettable.

Through the many moves to and from different cities, Gillman has had two constant companions. One, of course, is his special treasure of stealthily collected game films, and the other is a special treasure who has as many friends as any coach's wife ever had. His graciously enthusiastic lady Esther knew many years ago she would have to make sacrifices to be content amid the constant demands of NFL society.

Esther has made those sacrifices. She has paid attention and has been interested. And now she's probably the second most informed person in the nation on the subject of passing strategy. She, too, is unforgettable. ■



UNFORGETTABLES *Bill Bergery*





Micky Bergey, the wife of Bill Bergey, the burly and bearded linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles, has never fully accepted the notion that Bill, who is so quiet and sensitive during the week, can be so raucous and ferocious on game day. But she may still come round to the fact that a transformation does, indeed, take place—and she still remembers an incident that illustrates what we mean.

"I've been on a football field only once in my life," she explains. "There was this game where they were giving Bill a car at half time. We were playing the Bengals and getting beat. He wouldn't stand still for the ceremony, so they brought me out of the stands to accept the car. He came by, returning for the second half. He looked at me, didn't recognize me. So, maybe something does happen to him on Sunday."

What happens to Bill Bergey on Sunday is the end-result of a process that begins inexorably to overtake him on Thursday.

"I'm a very high-strung, very intense person," Bergey emphasizes. "If I wasn't the way I am I know I couldn't play the game the way I play it."

"Take our [Eagles] linebackers. Off the field, the four of us are yes-sir, no-sir people. We have manners that would please a school marm. On the field, we're demons, with the killer instinct. And it all starts on Thursday."

"About that time something starts happening to me. I just start sensing that something is coming. And the

thing that's coming is the Sunday ball game. I'm a miserable person. I've got to have everything right. I want to do my best, and I want everything right along the way to doing my best."

By the end of the week, the transformation process has locked Bergey's psyche in a vise so tight that he is separated totally from any other world.

"He doesn't even like to be touched," Micky Bergey reveals. "In bed, if our feet are touching, he'll pull away and say, 'don't touch me.'"

"There are complaints about husbands being away on Saturday nights (teams are housed in hotels, even prior to home games), but I don't think I could live with Bill on a Saturday night before a game. He's up, he's ready to play, he doesn't want to talk about what happened to the kids at school. He wants to think football and I think that's right. I think that's what makes him the caliber football player he is."

The caliber must be labeled extraordinary. Bill Bergey heads into 1981 prowling NFL fields on search-and-destroy missions for his 13th season, the last eight with the Eagles. He has been voted the team's Most Valuable Player three times, has been selected for the Pro Bowl four times, and stands number one among linebackers on the active list of the league's leading interceptors, with a total of 27.

But those are statistical accomplishments, and Bergey's achievements transcend statistics. For years Bill Bergey has been one of those unforgettable characters who arrive on the scene, capture our imaginations with their dynamic personalities, and leave a legacy of vivid memories even after their places in the lineup have been taken by younger players.

Two of the men closest to Bergey on different levels are teammate John Bunting, also a linebacker, and Coach Dick Vermeil. Nothing underscores the impression Bergey has made within the sport more than the unforgettable pictures of him they carry around in their mental wallets.

Bunting's pictures deal with the amazing ability and agility of the 6'3", 245-pound linebacker with whom he has played side by side while the Eagles have climbed from the NFC East cellar to the NFC throne room and a spot in the Super Bowl.

"The biggest thing he has going for him is a solid set of knees, plus tremendous quickness," says Bunting. "Because of his quickness he doesn't take that much of a beating from blockers. And he is one of the best tacklers I've ever seen."

"I can say with a clear conscience, based on long experience, he's one of the greatest athletes I've ever seen. Tremendous agility. I'll never forget the day we were fooling around in practice. We took our helmets off and pretended we were being introduced. And then we ran out for passes, catching the ball in one hand. When it was Bergey's turn, he did a front hand-spring, landed firmly on his feet, and caught the ball . . . wearing full gear!"

When Vermeil came aboard to take over the Eagles, he found few defensive pegs in their proper holes except for Bergey and Bunting.

"Bill Bergey is the best defensive football player I've ever coached," Vermeil says unequivocally. "He's the best I've ever seen in terms of competitiveness, willingness to work, and everyday attitude. He's a great example for our young players. He has enough en-



A family picture includes Bergey's in-laws. Left to right: Robert Davenport, Joshua Bergey (2), Jason Bergey (9), Bill Bergey, Mrs. Davenport, Jake Bergey (6) and Mrs. Micky Bergey.

Bergey

thusiasm for an entire team."

Accounts of two incidents from Bergey's first year with the Eagles provide us with some insight to a full appreciation of who he is.

As the Eagles came together for their first session of calisthenics, running back Po James felt himself tense at what he saw in front of him. "Look at that guy," he said to himself.

The guy was newcomer Bill Bergey, who had placed himself at the head of the group doing calisthenics. Reacting to what he considered the interloper's intrusion, James turned to Coach Mike McCormack and said:

"What's the dude doing up front like that? Nobody elected him team captain. did they?"

McCormack, who didn't smile about much, smiled about that, then replied:

"Do you want to go up there and tell him yourself?"

James still remembers his response to McCormack's challenge.

"I took one look at Bergey's face," he recalls, "and I said, 'No way. If he wants to be captain, that's okay with me.'"

Just a few days later, one of the local newspapers carried a layout of baby pictures of the Eagle players. Kevin Reilly, a reserve linebacker, was drawn to one particular kid's face . . . crew-cut hair . . . little smirk . . . an inkling of mischief in the eyes. The picture was of a 5-year-old boy, but Reilly knew the look. It belonged to Bergey.

"He was just the way I would have expected," Reilly said. "He was the or-

neriest-looking 5-year-old I ever saw. You could tell he had a streak of mean before he ever got to school."

That streak of mean was unleashed on the football field, and by the time he reached high school Bergey had fully established his image as a malicious maunder. He'd not only knock you down as hard as he could, he'd stand over your prone body and revel in his achievement and your demise.

"When I was playing high school football in South Dayton, N.Y., the hometown people said I'd never make it, that I was too reckless," Bergey points out. "I tried to tell them that hard, aggressive football was my style. Blood and guts. Their blood, my guts."

With that kind of talk continuing as his career unfolded in the NFL after his college days at Arkansas State, Bergey built the unforgettable image all of us probably have of him. An image such as this one: He has just slammed his body into an opponent, causing obvious pain. As the opponent writhes in agony, Bergey bellows words of bravo, obviously relishing his role in what he has just accomplished, feeling no remorse from any damage he may have done.

It is the same picture we have of Nitschke, of Butkus, of all the great heavyweight linebackers who cruised behind the lines looking for something to hit because hitting was the job they were paid to do.

It was a style more reminiscent of an earlier time than today, when the sleek, streamlined, pass-conscious linebacker seems to be the main breed, and it was accompanied by cries of outrage for the victims of the violence.

There was a considerable amount of rhetoric about violence at the time—vi-

olence was one of the major reasons fans came to games, psychologists said; violence was one of the major reason fans recoiled from the sport, other psychologists said.

And, whenever there was rhetoric about violence, the unforgettable, unspeakable acts perpetrated by Bergey were held up for examination.

Two of those unspeakable acts came when he was with Cincinnati in 1973, playing against the Pittsburgh Steelers with Bradshaw and Hanratty. In the first game between the teams that season, Bergey took out Bradshaw with a concussion; in the second, he sent Hanratty off with broken ribs.

Then, in 1978, in an preseason game against the Houston Oilers, Bergey drew a roughing-the-passer penalty for diving into Pastorini's knees after the quarterback had delivered a pass. The air was filled with charges aimed at Bergey.

"He was going for my knees," Pastorini claimed. "It was after the play—he could've held up. He didn't say anything to me but I'd certainly like to say something to him."

"All I know," said Houston tight end Mike Barber, "is that it was a cheap shot. That was definitely in the same class as George Atkinson's hit [on Lynn Swann]."

"They threw the flag, but they should've thrown him out of the game," said center Carl Mauck. "He's never been All-Pro in my book. He's got that kind of reputation."

Bergey was calm about the storm center hovering around him. He usually is, primarily because he believes in himself and feels he is innocent of all cheap-shot accusations.

"I'm not a madman," he said. "I'm not a crazy person. My mind is at ease. I've been in this league 10 years and I've had all kinds of things written and said about me. I really don't mind if I'm burned in the press."

"I'm going to fly home, hug Jason and Jakey [his sons], maybe get a kiss from my wife and go to work tomorrow. I'll enjoy looking at the films of the play and I'll know in my mind I'm right, that I didn't take a cheap shot. I don't ever try to injure anybody. I hit hard and play the game hard. That's the only way I know how to do it."

Pushed on the subject, Bergey rejects any suggestion that he is "mean" and talks more in terms of how much he "loves" the sport—that what he does out on the field, either physically or verbally, is a reflection of his genuine affection for the sport.

"I remember a terrible thing my brother told me," says Bergey, recalling the words of brother Bruce, who played in the World Football League. "He said the day he retired was the greatest day of his life, not having to go through the pain and agony any more. I resented that. To me, professional football has been a very enjoyable way of life. A fine way of making



Chuck Bednarik (L) was the last of the NFL two-way linebackers. The great Hall-of-Famer has been called the Eagles' best-ever sixty minute player, but Bergey, able to concentrate on defense alone, has earned the right to stand alongside.

a living, doing something I love.

"I've got a love and a hunger for this game. It's a way of life. I'm playing the game for the love I have for it. Really, half the reason I'm doing all that screaming and yelling you see when I'm out on the field is that I'm loving it out there. I'm liable to go around screaming and yelling, trying to get people up. And if I think we're getting a raw deal from the officials, I'll get right in the official's face and let him know it.

"I like to scream and holler. I even ham it up a bit. I'm just out there having some fun. For me, it's always been a game. It's an enjoyable thing. When they say I'm a wild man, it's probably because of the way I talk out there. I don't see myself as the big, bad guy or anything like that. That tees me off. It really does. Do I think I'm extra tough? No, I really don't. Maybe in the heat of battle... a little bit. But I don't like the word 'mean' much. I'd like the word 'intense' more."

If Bergey rejects any suggestion that he is "mean," wife Micky positively objects when the topic is discussed.

"The image of Bill is misleading," says Micky, who met Bergey in a square dancing class at Arkansas State University. "He's like two different people sometimes. I'm not saying he doesn't get in a late hit once in a while, but he's not a head hunter.

"He's competitive and hard-driving, but he's also very sensitive and emotional. When our first child Jason was born, I was too groggy to tell Bill to come in the room. When he walked through those doors, he just burst into tears. At first I thought there was something wrong with the baby. Then I realized he was just being emotional. It revealed a lot to me."

Micky Bergey also has no thought of pushing her husband to quit, even though he had to battle back from serious knee surgery in 1980, will have to undergo minor shoulder surgery this season and is, at 36, pushing that age when even the exceptional begin to run out of steam.

"Why would I want something to end that makes him so happy?" she asks. "Sure, when I see him go into a pile, and see the legs twisting... I would never want him to get hurt again. But, he loves the game, and I love it too. Football has allowed me to go places I'd never have gone, see things I'd never have seen, and meet so many lovely people."

It also has brought a number of rewards that make Bergey's life after football secure. Those include the centerpiece for the moment, the Bergey's hilltop house in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, where he could spend the rest of his days and never miss a payment.

He has a farm in Ohio, a shopping center in Arkansas, a home in Western New York and a development of condominiums he's building with his brother Bruce in Oregon. But, for the mo-

ment, life is centered in Chadds Ford, where Bergey is the proud pop of three young sons—Jason, 10, Jake, 7, and Joshua, 3.

Bergey enjoys the role he presents there—his image as a father—not to counter any image he has on the field but because he is as intense a father as he is a linebacker.

"I'm very family-oriented," Bergey says. "Always have been. And now my boys are at an age where they don't want to share me too much. I'll take 'em to a hockey game or the circus and they don't like people asking me for autographs. Jason told me once I ought to wear a costume, a disguise.

"I'm very strict with them. I don't want anybody to think of kids as dogs, but you've got to train them just as you'd train a puppy to become the puppy you want it to be.

"You've got to teach them. You've got to give them lots of love. You've got to fulfill them at home, so they won't go looking for fulfillment outside the home. I tuck them in every night. We say our prayers together. We do lots of things as a family. I just feel children, for the most part, like to be disciplined. They like to know limitations.

"I remember once I took the older boys swimming. From the time we took off, they were at each other's throats. I told 'em, if you guys don't stop it, when we get home, I'm gonna spank you hard. They didn't quit. So, when we got home, I spanked them both. Hard. And, I told them no dinner to-night.

"Later on, I told them how disappointed I was in them, but they could go ahead and have dinner. I was sitting there, watching TV, and they



When recovering from surgery in 1979, Bergey continued to sign autographs. For several years, he has been a leader in the Eagles' "Fly For Leukemia," a project supported by the team for the benefit of a special family half-way house at Philadelphia's Children's Hospital.

couldn't hug me enough. They were trying their hardest to get back in my good graces. And that was good for a whole year, right there."

If that peek of Bergey the pop seems unusual or out-of-character, it's not, says Micky Bergey.

"He has not changed a bit since the first time I met him," Micky says. "He is very generous, very kind, a good family man. I think he is unaffected by the things that happen to him. And he has had a lot of very positive things happen to him.

"Drafted into the NFL, played good football in Cincinnati, came to Philadelphia. And, suddenly, I was married to a star. It was different for me. But he never changed. I don't know anybody with better mind control. He seems oblivious to pain. But there are times I talk to Bill and he does not hear. He listens, but he doesn't hear. He must be thinking about plays."

Still thinking about plays and playing, he figures he's good for two more years.

"But I want to be a performer those years," he says. "I'll know when I am slipping and falling off. And I've got enough pride in myself that, when it's time to leave, I'll leave the game myself.

"I'm not going to be like Leroy Kelly, who was playing with the Chicago Wind or Fire, whatever it was, in the World Football League. Or like Johnny Unitas. I can remember him [late in his career] at San Diego. We [Bergey was with Cincinnati then] butchered him something fierce.

"We haven't really studied it [retirement]. We haven't talked about it that much. My wife doesn't know what I'm gonna do either. I know what I'd like to do my first year away from football. That's go fishing one day and hunting the next. Do that for a solid year with my boys."

However, even he acknowledges that would leave some yearnings.

"There's going to be a big void," he says. "What I'll really miss is the camaraderie. The juking and jiving in the locker room. The jokes and the little things."

And there will be withdrawal pains, breaking the habits of more than a dozen years of getting ready for the NFL's 60-minute wars.

"I know it sounds corny," he says, "but football players are programmed. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, the stomach starts churning. Sunday, you're ready to go. Sunday night, your insides are still grinding pretty good, and I don't get to sleep good until Monday night.

"I cool down on Tuesday and Wednesday. And then, it's Thursday, and it starts again. And when the season is finished, Thursday, you still churn inside... and there is nothing to hit."

Hit. That's what he always does best, unforgettably. ■



HALL OF FAME

Often, the NFL's legit Hall of Famers earn more than an entry into the Hall. For example, that wonderfully young old-timer, George Blanda, was more to his football buddies than just their quarterback. He earned their respect as a blue chip friend.

Several years ago Dr. Bill McColl, a former Blanda teammate on the Chicago Bears, decided to make a switch away from medicine long enough to explore his own political potential. He set up shop near his home in Southern California and ran for a Republican seat in Congress.

In the primary campaign, McColl's advisors decided on a "Sports Sunday," during which athlete friends would appear at an outdoor rally near the Rose Bowl to pledge their support to Bill's cause. Blanda, living some three hours' drive from O'Hare Airport

in Chicago, heard about the rally.

On the appointed day, Blanda drove to O'Hare, took a plane to Los Angeles, rode 40 miles from the airport to the Rose Bowl, made a stirring speech to the crowd on Bill's behalf, signed autographs, drove back to the airport, and was aboard a Chicago-bound plane less than four hours after he had arrived. He drove into his garage late Sunday night, having paid all his own expenses, satisfied that he had done his best for his buddy.

McColl lost in the primary and returned to medicine. But Blanda, while seeking no publicity for himself, had earned some real points with those who would vote him post-career honors. Now it is official. On August 1, 1981, George Blanda will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at Canton, Ohio. He will be one of four:

Morris (Red) Badgro. At 78, he is the oldest person ever to be elected to the Hall. His age and the span of time since he played his last NFL game in 1936 prove two things: (1) Patience is a virtue and (2) Red's exploits, having withstood 45 years of retirement, must have been unforgettable.

Badgro was an end—a two-way end, thank you—in the days when you had to play both offense and defense, not only because the rules prohibited those leaving the field from re-entering during the same quarter, but also because the squads in the early days numbered a maximum of 18 and a minimum of 15 players.

Steve Owen coached Badgro for six of his seven years in the NFL and said that Badgro belonged on his all-time NFL team.

"He could block, catch passes, make tackles; and he would be sick for a week if we lost a game," said Owen.

Badgro's pro career:

- 1927—New York Yankees (AFL)
- 1928—Tulsa (baseball)
- 1929-30—St. Louis Browns (AL) (baseball)
- 1930-35—New York Giants (NFL)
- 1936—Brooklyn Dodgers (NFL)



Willie Davis. Many red faces dot the pages of NFL history books, and often they belong to the coaches and personnel executives who let prize talent get away. Johnny Unitas was cut, as a rookie, by Pittsburgh. George Blanda was encouraged to retire and allowed to become a free agent by Chicago 16 years before he was through. Tuffy Leemans was drafted by the New York Giants from under Redskin owner George Marshall's hometown nose. And Willie Davis was traded to Green Bay by Cleveland for an offensive end who caught only one pass the rest of his NFL days.

Davis? After two years of plugging at Cleveland, he thought his trade to Green Bay was a demotion until Packer coach Vince Lombardi told him how eagerly he had sought him as a future star at defensive end. That was the turning point in Davis' life.

For 10 more years, Davis played with Green Bay—and never missed a game. He became one of the league's most feared pass rushers and was a team leader. Now he's a success in business and, at last, a most deserving new member of the Hall of Fame.

Davis' career:

1958-59—Cleveland
1960-69—Green Bay

George Blanda. He just seems like 78. He was in the league so long it was like he had been around forever. Actually, he will be only 54 this September.

After a normal-length 10-year career with the Bears (and a cup of coffee in Baltimore), Blanda retired following the 1958 season. It had been a good career, but not spectacular. But after sitting it out in 1959, Blanda accepted an opportunity to go with Houston in the new AFL in 1960. That was the beginning of another 16 years, a fantastic second career, as an NFL quarterback and placekicker.

In 1970, at age 43, George had a stretch of five fantastic games for Oakland in which he performed last-minute heroics as a passer and field-goal kicker, giving new hopes to millions of middle-aged fans who suddenly realized life could begin at 40, or later.

The NFL records books are full of Blanda entries, especially in career length (26 years of service, retiring at age 48) and placekicking categories. He had been a legend long before his time. Now, the legend is scheduled for the Hall.

Blanda's career:

1949—Chicago Bears
1950—Baltimore Colts
1950-58—Chicago Bears
1959—Retired
1960-66—Houston
1967-75—Oakland

Jim Ringo. A story often accepted as truth has turned out to be a legend, strictly fictional. According to the story, Jim Ringo sent his agent to negotiate his 1964 Green Bay contract. Coach and general manager Vince Lombardi excused himself from the room and returned later to tell the agent to go talk to Philadelphia. He had just traded Ringo to the Eagles.

Now, Ringo says he never had an agent, that he was traded simply because he was older and Lombardi needed younger players, and that Lombardi was not only a good friend but also a great tutor and an inspiration.

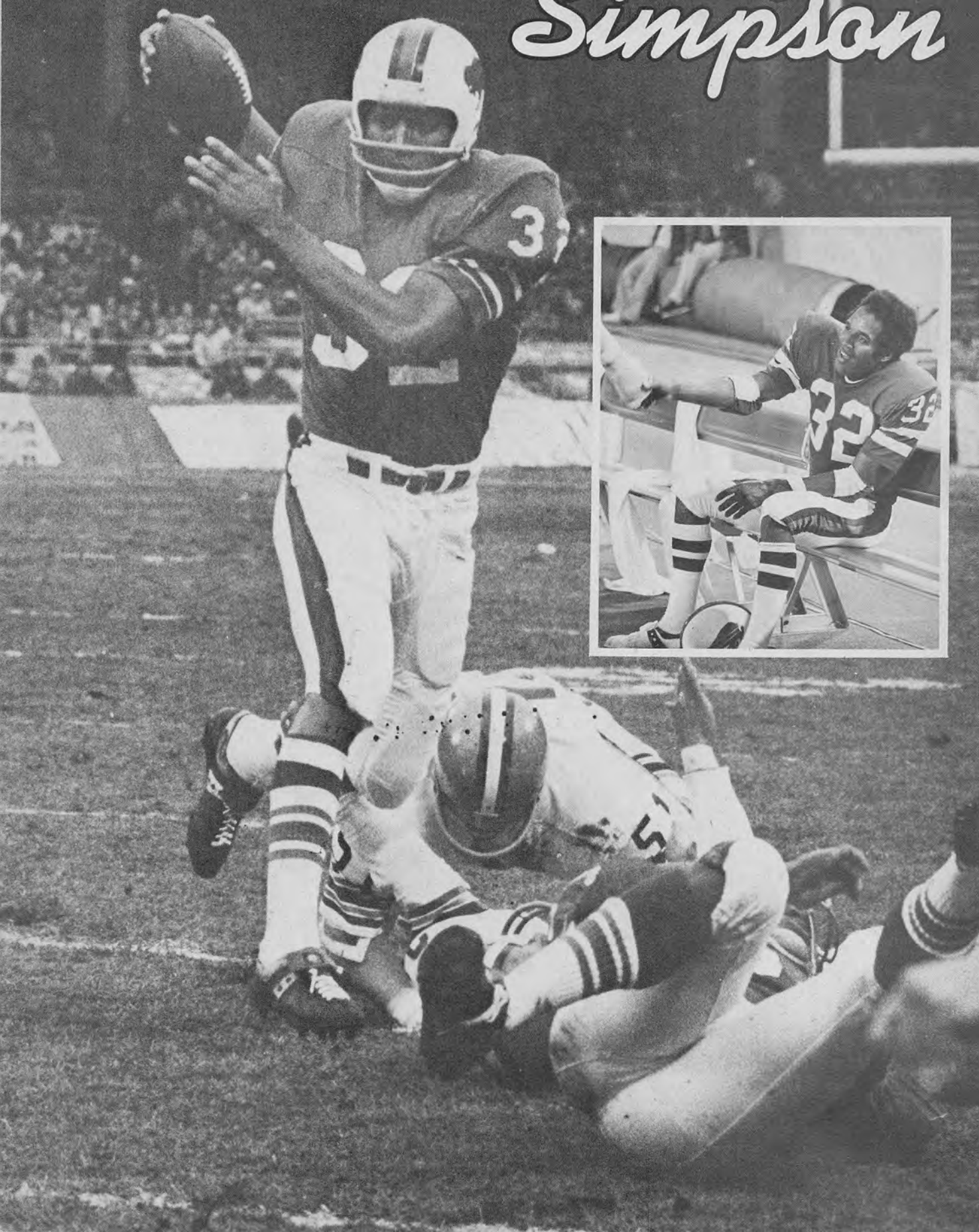
Ringo was a durable, dependable, consistent center in the Green Bay front line for 11 years and gave Philadelphia the same kind of top-level service for another four seasons. He played in 10 Pro Bowls and anchored the forward wall at Green Bay in the early championship years of Lombardi.

Ringo's career:

1953-63—Green Bay
1964-67—Philadelphia

Blanda's election to the Hall in his first year of eligibility (players must wait five years after retirement to become eligible) has triggered speculation on players who now are within the five-year limbo span. At least four have strong shots at being named in their first year on the ballot: Merlin Olsen, Roger Staubach, Fran Tarkenton, and a fellow who runs through airports, O. J. Simpson.

UNFORGETTABLES *O.J. Simpson*



He Has Winning Ways On and Off the Field

BY LARRY FELSER



The assigned hole is closed, but a pursuing defensive end has committed himself just a fraction too much. O. J.

changes direction without blinking. The end grasps futilely. Simpson accelerates into the secondary and can't be caught.

An unforgettable blend of power, speed, and grace.

But there are other moments, other vignettes which put Orenthal James Simpson in a category far different from that of just athletic superstar.

It is the May after he broke the 2000-yard rushing barrier for a single season. The Buffalo Bills have convened their mini-camp and are meeting in a large hotel for the first orientation session. An elevator door opens and Simpson is hustled through the lobby by a phalanx of security men, TV lights shining in his face. The Bills' rookies gawk in awe. Even the Bills' veterans, the very men who were part of his landmark season, crane their necks to get a look at him.

It is Thanksgiving, 1976. The Detroit Lions have beaten Buffalo in the Silverdome, but the Lions' defense has been pierced for 273 yards by Simpson, an all-time NFL record for one game. The door of the Detroit locker room opens and, to the surprise of the Lions' players, Simpson walks in. It turns out that he is being led to a TV interview room. "For a moment," says Detroit linebacker Paul Naumoff, "I thought he was here to distribute Christmas hams to our defense."

It is Atlanta Stadium, 1973, after the Bills have stopped the Falcons' seven-game winning streak and Simpson has slashed them for 137 yards. As always, O. J. has stayed in his dressing stall until the last interviewer has been satisfied. When they leave, he slumps back, exhausted, and calls out, "Can I have a soft drink out of the cooler?" A locker room attendant motions to his shy son who is holding a can of pop for O. J. "He's been waiting an hour to give you that soda," laughs the father. O. J. throws away the cold drink and takes the warm one from the little boy.

It is the summer after Simpson becomes spokesperson for Hertz and their car rental profits improve by 38 percent. "The Superstar of Rental Cars" is the theme. On this day, however, O. J. walks gingerly down the sidewalk, having just returned from treatment for hemorrhoids. He encounters sports writer Peter Pascarelli. "The Superstar of

Preparation H," announces Pascarelli. Simpson collapses in laughter. This superstar can laugh at himself.

It's September, 1975, in Three Rivers Stadium. Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain defense has been treated like a rusty screen door by O. J. who rips it for 227 yards in a startling upset. Dwight White, the Steelers' Mad Dog, is asked for his reaction. "He leaps, he streaks, he accelerates, he flies," says White, "and he's the greatest bleepity-bleep I've ever seen."

It is the summer of 1980, O. J. is retired. He is a movie and television star now, flying from coast to coast to make films, close deals, be a celebrity. But this time, the setting is a hotel near Rich Stadium where he played for the Bills. The occasion is a party honoring retiring equipment manager Tony Marchitte, one of the unacclaimed people of pro football. Into the midst of the party, unseen by the guest of honor, O. J. walks through a door and strides over to embrace Marchitte. Simpson has flown in just for the party.

The evidence which will get him into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH, cannot include electric moments like these, however. Hard evidence, only please.

The hard evidence is there, too.

In 1972, Simpson's professional

career was rescued by Lou Saban who had become coach of the Bills. Saban knew he had a rare and valuable weapon. He outfitted his wide receivers with face masks and told his offensive unit, "We are going to block for this man."

In the second game of the season, Buffalo played the 49ers, then champions of the National Conference's Western Division. O. J. carried the ball 29 times and gained 138 yards as Buffalo pulled off an upset. It was the cornerstone game of his belated start as a professional star.

Six weeks later, Buffalo played the Steelers, the future champions in embryo, on their way to the "Miraculous Reception" finish. It was a game in which he would surprise even himself.

One of the major elements in the Bills' game plan was a running play called "full right 26." In the play, a dive was faked to the left. O. J. was to get the ball and go to his right, behind the two guards. O. J. did not have a high opinion of it. "It takes me too long to get to the line of scrimmage," he complained. "It won't work."

The first time the Bills ran it, Simpson sprinted 94 yards for a touchdown.

The final game of that '72 season was played in snowy, frigid



O.J.

Washington, where the Redskins already had clinched their division championship and were on their way to a Super Bowl meeting with Miami. Buffalo won only four games that season, but this was one of them, with O. J. squirming and juking his way to 101 yards and his first NFL rushing championship. He also scored one of the touchdowns.

Afterwards, Simpson, Reggie McKenzie, and their young teammates exploded in celebration in the dressing room. Moe Siegel, the Washington Star columnist, was confounded. "You would think they won the Super Bowl," he said. For O. J. and McKenzie it was a personal Super Bowl. The victory would provide carryover to an unforgettable season.

The season had a forgettable prelude, however. The Bills lost all six of their preseason games. On the eve of the regular season opener in New England, the Bills' game plan was to use Simpson as a decoy. Larry Watkins, the fullback, was supposed to get the ball most of the time. But on Buffalo's fifth offensive play of the day, with New England leading, 6-0, Simpson was sent on a sweep to the

right. He looked hemmed in. Steve Kiner came up to make the tackle and O. J. stuck a hand in his face. Dave Rowe, the big tackle, made a dive, but "The Juice" shrugged him off. Honor Jackson and Sandy Durko, the two safeties, tried to catch him before he got too far into the secondary, but they had no chance. It was an 80-yard touchdown run, with a lot more to come.

When he finished, he had 250 yards in 29 carries, an 8.6-yard per carry average. "We looked foolish against him," said Chuck Fairbanks, the Patriots' freshman coach.

It wouldn't be the last time. Simpson would have another 200-yard day against the Pats in Buffalo later in the season, and that experience would cause Fairbanks to change his defensive thinking. The Patriots switched to the 3-4 defense the next year, basically to stop O. J., and they remain in that defensive set today.

Few defenses, no matter what formation, stopped Simpson that season. No runner ever had a year like it.

Coming into the last game against the New York Jets at Shea Stadium, O. J. was just 61 yards short of breaking Jim Brown's all-time NFL record, 1863 yards, which had been set 10 years earlier.

It wasn't just a numerical barrier. O. J. had told interviewers all that week about the time he met Brown in a soda shop after a game in San Francisco's

Kezar Stadium, when Brown was a young star and Simpson was a neighborhood teenager. "I was jiving him, telling him 'you're not so good. When I'm a pro, I'm gonna be better than you are. I'm gonna break your records.'"

O. J. had gained 219 yards against New England in the snow the week before, but that was on artificial turf, and Simpson had skated around like Guy LeFleur. The Shea Stadium turf that day was a mess, even before the game started. Shea has natural turf, and so, by the second quarter, the field could have been a bog.

Buffalo's game plan was obvious—Simpson, O. J., Juice, and more of the same. It was "coming-at-you" time.

O. J.'s first carry was a modest four yards. On his second run, he broke through a huge hole, and the New York fans, who were pulling for him to break the record, roared their approval. It looked as if he might do it on his second run, but after 30 yards he tripped on tight end Paul Seymour's heel.

Buffalo didn't throw the ball once in its opening touchdown drive. Simpson carried seven time for 57 yards. "Climb on my back if you have to, in order to get those yards," urged McKenzie.

When the Bills got the ball back, their offensive unit virtually raced to the field in anticipation. They needed only four more yards on a Simpson



run, and the record would be his.

Joe Ferguson, the rookie quarterback, called the play. "Twenty seven, on two," said Fergy. It was O. J.'s favorite. It started with Ferguson faking to fullback Jim Braxton running up the middle. Then Simpson would get the ball, with Joe DeLamielleure, the rugged rookie guard, and McKenzie, leading the play.

The problem was that Ralph Baker, the Jets' veteran linebacker, was calling signals for the defense and he, too, knew it was O. J.'s favorite play. The defense Baker called was designed to put the Jets' strength into the seven hole.

The ball was snapped, and DeLamielleure hurled himself through the hole. O. J. followed him. When the bodies were untangled, Simpson had two yards more than he needed. The record was broken.

The game was stopped. The ball was presented to Simpson, who was mobbed by his teammates. Saban and O. J. embraced on the sidelines.

Over the din, McKenzie's voice could be heard, "We got work to do. Let's go for the deuce." 2000 yards.

Simpson burst through the middle for a 13-yard touchdown run. Then Bill Cahill scored on a 51-yard punt return for Buffalo, and the game was beyond the reach of the Jets. The drama now centered on the Juice.

At the start of the last quarter, Ferguson made an announcement in the huddle, "Here's something to fire you guys up: The Juice needs only 60 more yards." He didn't have to say for what.

On what was to be his last series of the game, O. J. opened with a 22-yard gain. The Bills' blockers, tired and cold, nevertheless summoned their strength for the man who was both their friend and teammate. Play after play, they blasted Jets from their path.

Soon he was only nine yards from his target. A power play was called, and he burrowed for five. Only four to go.

In an extra touch of accidental drama, the lights were turned at Shea Stadium.

The final play itself was simple. Straight ahead, power blocking, no jukes, no feints. He squeezed through

two defenders, pulled away from a third, ran through a fourth. Seven yards! More than enough.

They hustled him off the field minutes before the game was over. Frank Ramos, the New York public relations director, graciously offered a large anteroom in the stadium to accommodate the expected crowd of press and broadcast people for the post-game conference. His counterpart, Budd Thalman, accepted, but Simpson told him he wouldn't go to the conference unless his one requirement was met.

"What's that?" asked Thalman.

"The entire offensive unit comes with me." When O. J. met the press, he made the introductions: "I'd like you to meet a few of my friends: Dave Foley, Paul Seymour, Mike Montler, J. D. 'Crackback' Hill, Bobby Chandler, Donnie Green, Joe DeLamielleure, Joe Ferguson, Jim Braxton, and my main man, Reggie McKenzie. These are the cats who did it for me all year."

Then there was the most successful season of all, 1975, when he ran for 1817 yards and was used to the fullest as a pass receiver for the only time in his career. He caught 28 passes for 426 additional yards and set an NFL record with 23 touchdowns.

The 227-yard game against the Steelers was probably his all-time best against a superior opponent. It included a masterful 88-yard run, in which he started by finding the hole inside the right tackle closed. He bounced outside, juked Jack Ham off his feet and then outran a half dozen Steelers down the sidelines. "For the first 40 yards I ran like a halfback, but the rest of the way I switched to a track stride," he remembers. He makes it sound so simple.

The Juice came back to Buffalo last season to be honored as the charter inductee into the team's "Wall of Fame" at Rich Stadium. Before the game, he ran out on the field in his famed No. 32. His family was there, as were his old friends. It was an occasion filled with sentiment.

But the next day, at a luncheon in his honor, he told a self-deprecating story on himself that was typical with a subtle request not to be taken too seriously.

O. J. recalled that one of his first preseason games as a pro rookie was in Cleveland. The Browns, at one time, sponsored a pro doubleheader each year in Cleveland Stadium. The Bills were matched with the Chicago Bears, and Cleveland was up against the Packers.

"We checked into the hotel the night before the game, and I shared a room with another rookie, Robert James, who was to become an All-Pro corner back," O. J. remembers. "Robert is a real religious guy, and that night he knelt down beside his bed to pray. I left the room to give him some privacy and went down to the coffee shop. Some of the Packers were having a snack and Ray Nitschke motioned for me to come and join them. I was flattered, with me being a rookie and all.

"Nitschke took me aside and told me something privately. 'Tomorrow night, when you play the Bears, you watch out for Dick Butkus. He's bad news.'

I thought to myself 'Ray Nitschke is warning me about Butkus.' I was impressed. In fact, I was worried. I went back upstairs to pray with Robert James.

"The next day I felt better about it because Max Anderson was our starting halfback then, and by the time I got into the game, all the regulars on both teams would be out, which meant I wouldn't have to play against Butkus.

"But in the second series on offense for us, Butkus hit Max and broke his jaw. The coach, John Rauch, yelled 'Simpson, get in there' My knees were shaking. I had seen Butkus on a TV interview the night before and the sportscaster asked him a question about me. They had to bleep out almost all of his answer. When he saw me trotting to the huddle, he started screamin' and jumpin' up and down. 'Simpson,' he yelled at me, 'you bleepity-bleep!'

"On my first carry of the game, it was a sweep to the right. I got by the defensive end and the outside linebacker, but Butkus comes running over to force the play. It was a question of running out of bounds or coming straight up field to meet Butkus head on. I ran out of bounds.

"Butkus hit me anyway." ■

O. J. SIMPSON'S NFL RECORDS

Year	Team	Lg.	G	Att.	RUSHING			TD	RECEIVING				SCORING		
					Yds.	Avg.			PC	Yds.	Avg.	TD	TD	Pts.	Fumbles
1969	Buffalo	AFL	13	181	697	3.9	2		30	343	11.4	3	5	30	6
1970	Buffalo	NFL	8	120	488	4.1	5		10	139	13.9	0	6	36	6
1971	Buffalo	NFL	14	183	742	4.1	5		21	162	7.7	0	5	30	5
1972	Buffalo	NFL	14	292	1251	4.3	6		27	198	7.3	0	6	36	8
1973	Buffalo	NFL	14	**332	**2003	6.0	*12		6	70	11.7	0	12	72	7
1974	Buffalo	NFL	14	*270	1125	4.2	3		15	189	12.6	1	4	24	7
1975	Buffalo	NFL	14	*329	*1817	*5.5	*16		28	426	15.2	7	**23	138	7
1976	Buffalo	NFL	14	290	*1503	5.2	8		22	259	11.8	1	9	54	6
1977	Buffalo	NFL	7	126	557	4.4	0		16	138	8.6	0	0	0	2
1978	San Fran.	NFL	10	161	593	3.7	1		21	172	8.2	2	3	18	5
1979	San Fran.	NFL	13	120	460	3.8	3		7	46	6.6	0	3	18	3
11 years			135	**2404	11,236	4.7	61		203	2142	10.6	14	76	456	62

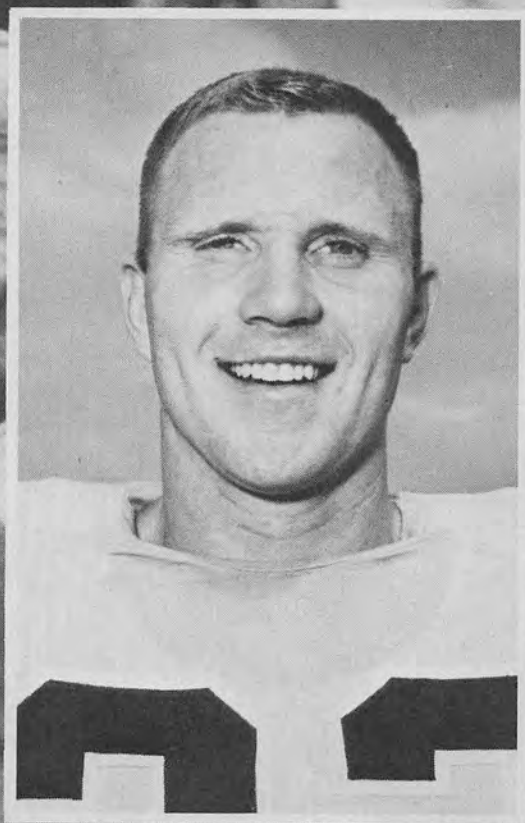
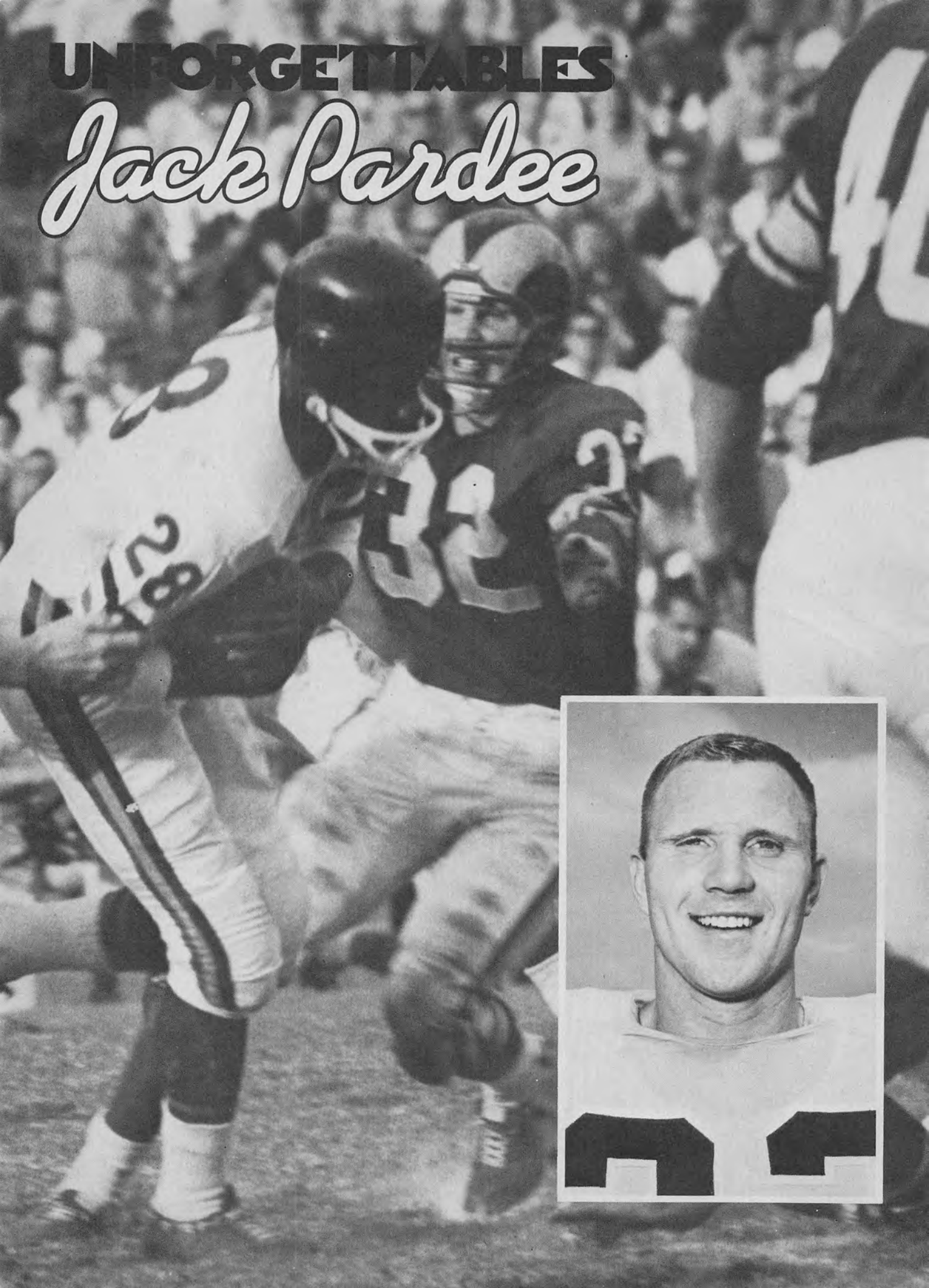
*Led NFL

**NFL Record



UNFORGETTABLES

Jack Pardee



"An Unforgettable Comeback . . ."

"... That Changed a Life"

Linebackers love to hit people; it's not just a part of their job description. Hitting hard is to the linebacker as swinging a bat is to the .300 hitter or telling a joke is to comedian Bob Hope.

But outstanding linebackers hit even harder. And it seems ironic that here on page 32 we're going to write about one of the hardest hitters in NFL history. He wore jersey No. 32.

Perhaps he didn't make the number 32 as famous as did Sandy Koufax or O. J. Simpson or Jerry Lucas, nor was he as honored as linebackers Fortmann, Butkus, Bergey, Bednarik, or Curtis. But Jack Pardee not only was one of the NFL's better backers for 15 seasons, he also earned the right to be called the man with the most unforgettable comeback in NFL history.

Pardee played small-town, six-man high school football in Texas, but was an outstanding fullback at Texas A&M, where the Rams first noticed him, and then drafted him on the second round in 1957.

As a pro rookie, Pardee was a

linebacker, but was unable to break into the starting lineup. However, as a special teams performer, his hits on the opposing kickoff returners could be heard from the end zone seats at the Los Angeles Coliseum to the walls of the Sam Huff fan clubs in New York.

Switching to defense took Pardee only a year of training, and he had chances to hit just as hard, and more often, as a starting linebacker in 1958.

After his seventh NFL season, when he had become a full-fledged first team All-Pro, Pardee's wife, Phyllis, noted a growth on his arm. Properly sensing it as a possible malignancy, she took him to the hospital, where after a nine-and-a-half hour surgery, the melanoma and, as a precaution, huge sections of nearby surfaces were removed.

After the surgery, Pardee realized that the next five years would be the most critical. He decided, however, to continue to play with the Rams, who were hesitant to give him license to play as much or as hard as he had in his pre-surgery days. Yet, despite his All-Pro year in 1963, '64 was a disappointment, and in December Jack retired to become an assistant coach at Texas A&M.

The retirement lasted one year. George Allen took over as head coach for Los Angeles and saw that the starting linebackers in 1965 had been three rookies. With his well-known emphasis on maturity, Allen brought in

veterans Max Baughan from the Eagles and Bill George from the Bears and then talked Pardee out of retirement. Jack's return to the pro game was sensational. He played from 1966 through 1972 with the Rams and the Redskins, and again was one of the game's premier hitters.

As a result of his successful surgery, Pardee, already a devout Catholic, became even more devout. Before his operation, he attended Sunday mass regularly. Afterwards, however, he decided to attend mass daily in gratitude for his life. Many of those who have worked closely with him since he became a head coach (WFL, Chicago Bears, Washington Redskins, and now assistant at San Diego) say they have never known him to by-pass daily mass even after 17 years.

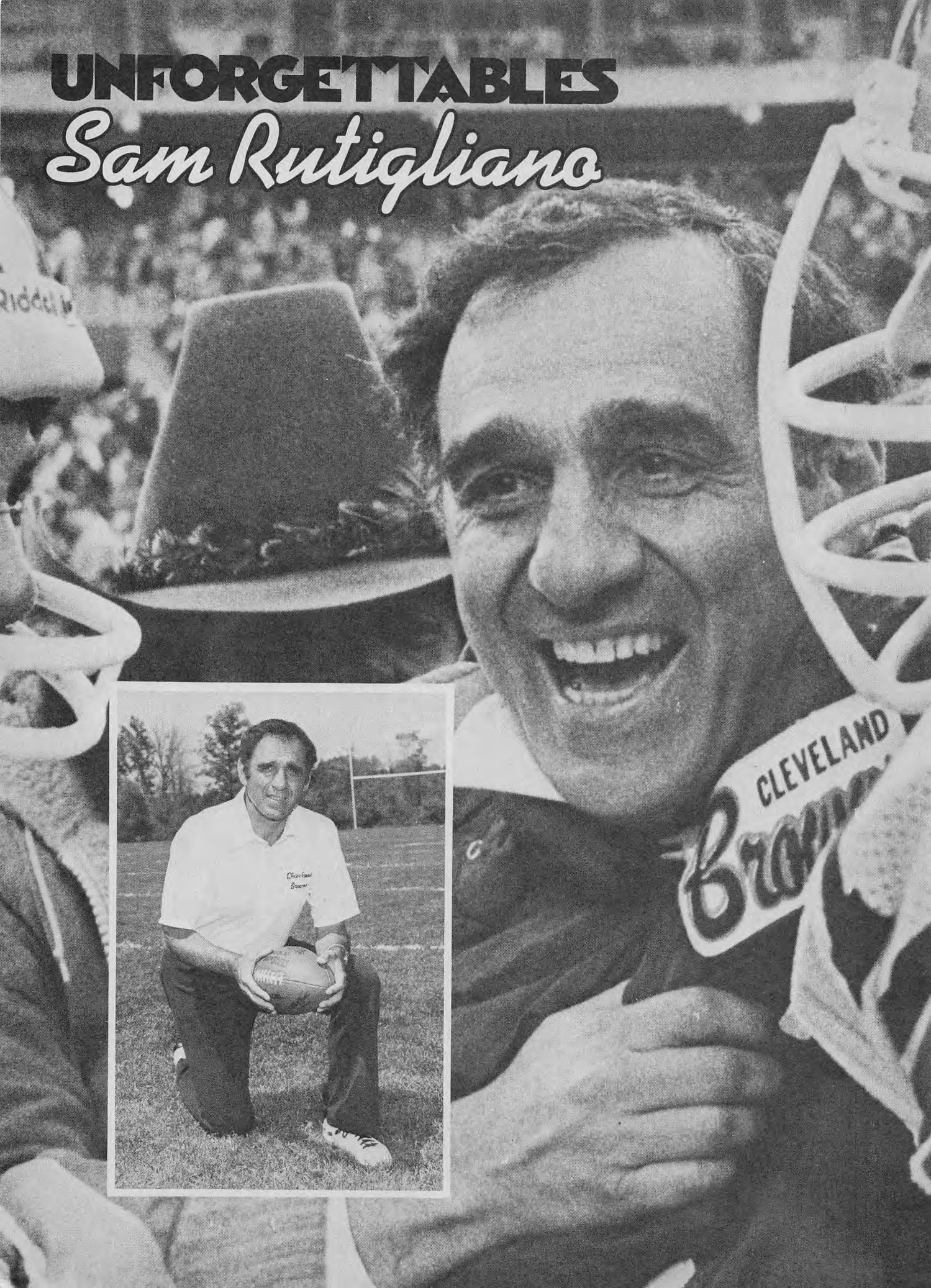
Pardee's family life was also strengthened. In the past he had not been active in family decisions; his wife was the more dominant force. However, through their mutual church activities, they became models for family unity.

Jack's inner strength has certainly helped in his profession. Although some may believe his current assignment as San Diego's assistant coach is a letdown from his seven years as a head coach, Jack enjoys whatever he is doing and tries to make a positive contribution. Jack's composure on the sidelines is no facade. He's a truly peaceful man. ■



UNFORGETTABLES

Sam Rutigliano





You watch him on the sidelines and he is mainly grim-faced. His jaw is tightly set and you may even see a bit of Bogart in him. The irony is, Sam Rutigliano never even pretends to be a tough guy.

As a matter of fact, he is a gentle soul in the violent world of football. Sam is the coach of the Cleveland Browns, a job he enjoys but one he could live without. Perhaps that's the difference between this tough-looking but kindly-disposed man and most of his contemporaries in the National Football League.

"I love my work. I love all of it and there are hopes and dreams that I have yet to achieve," he claims. "But if Art Modell [owner of the Browns] walked in here right now and told me it was all over, I'd just pick up my things, go home and tell my wife what had happened, and we'd go on from there. The most important thing in the world is that we'd be happy, and it wouldn't cause our world to crumble."

For Sam Rutigliano of Brooklyn (he'll probably never shake the accent) life is

too good and too secure to be shaken by what most of us would consider a career crisis; his strength is too great to be crumbled by what most of us would think of as failure.

Perhaps no one knows who first said: "There are only two kinds of coaches—those who have been fired, and those who will be." And as surely as the night follows the day, Sam Rutigliano will one day leave as coach of the Browns. When that day comes, you can be certain he'll exit with a firm handshake, a smile, and thank-you's all around.

"It may sound strange to a lot of people," he admits, "but I'd probably be just as happy coaching those kids at Lafayette High."

It would sound strange, if you did not understand that Sam Rutigliano considers coaching football more a calling than a mere profession. He was spawned in the same Brooklyn neck-of-the-woods that produced Vince Lombardi and Joe Paterno. His father was a hard-working immigrant truck driver who believed in God, family, and hard work, in that order. His mother was a rock of Gibraltar whose strength held the family together. Many parents in that area were suspicious that a col-

lege education was at least a waste of time and perhaps even dangerous. Not the Rutiglianos.

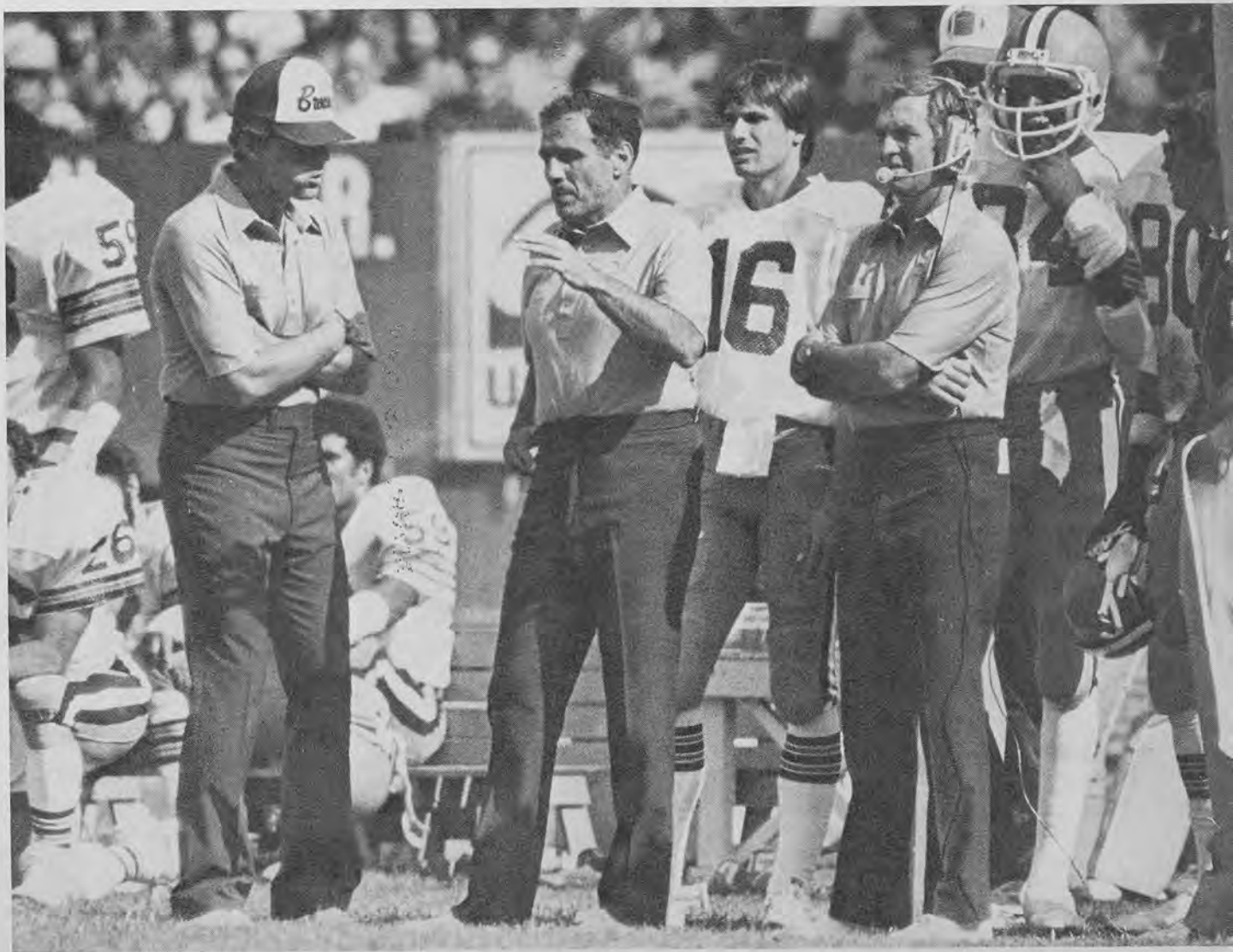
"It's something no one can ever take away from you," his father admonished.

So Sam Rutigliano went to college and got a master's degree from Columbia University. He was working one spring as an insurance adjuster when it hit him that he ought to be coaching. The first stop was Lafayette High in Brooklyn.

"Those kids were a reflection of myself," he remembers. "It was a tough area, and the kids were mostly first generation Americans. For the most part, the parents were mystified about the necessity of education and they really didn't understand sports at all. As much as my own father believed in a strong education, even he didn't comprehend the values of athletic competition. He used to think I was wasting my time."

"But I knew I wasn't. It was investing time, not wasting it. I recognized that right away, simply because of the communication with the young people. They were street kids. They had a toughness about them."

Sam Rutigliano has never coached



Sam

any team to a losing season; not at Lafayette High and not at Greenwich, Connecticut, where he moved after three seasons.

"It was a very tough decision to move from Lafayette, but it was an opportunity for me."

He made the most of it, winning a state championship at Greenwich before Rick Forzano tapped him to become an assistant coach at the University of Connecticut.

"Sam's an amazing human being," said Forzano, who became head coach at the Naval Academy and later the Detroit Lions. "You meet thousands of people in athletics and once in a great while you're privileged to know a man like him. He's a natural for coaching because he's a communicator. He's a sincere human being and a straight-talker. But most important of all, he

has his priorities in line and he's right up front about everything. Lots of coaches are technically sound. Sam Rutigliano is more than that—he's morally sound, too."

It could be said that Sam simply grew up good and stayed that way. Yet, he doesn't race around trying to shove his beliefs down the throats of others, nor does he criticize those who believe differently from himself.

"I just know what works for me," says Rutigliano. "And I really believe that things have a way of working out. When the opportunity came for me to leave Brooklyn, I thought maybe I should never leave. I know I had great impact there. But I worked hard at doing something other than coaching those kids. I wanted to help them get out of that situation, to help them make something out of themselves."

But when a man considers coaching a calling, he never really leaves. And today, a quarter-century after leaving Lafayette High, Sam Rutigliano never has yanked up those roots. The "kids" from Lafayette are his closest and dearest friends. They still come in groups to watch Sam's Browns play.

Sam calls them his "long-term friends."

Those "kids"—now grown men—are testimony that when a coach sees beyond the won-lost column, he coaches much more than just the fundamentals of a particular sport.

"At first, my father didn't understand my great affection for coaching. I'd be teaching a class—and I enjoyed that, too—but all day long I couldn't wait 'til three o'clock so I could get out on the field with the kids. Somehow I knew right away that I was not only getting through to those young people, but I knew they needed me. Perhaps I didn't realize it fully at the time, but I needed them, too.

"There's a special magic about coaching. Frequently, a coach can have more influence on a young person than anyone except a father and mother. Tragically, sometimes a coach is the only real influence on a kid. Coaching is a big responsibility and if you really love it, you think about that influence all the time and you work extra hard to make certain the influence is a healthy one."

Sam Rutigliano is a man who has paid his dues. He played under General Bob Neyland at Tennessee and Bobby Dobbs at Tulsa. He moved through the high school coaching ranks, spent two seasons with Forzano at Connecticut, then a season with Lou Saban at Maryland after Lou had left the Buffalo Bills. When Saban got another National Football League coaching job at Denver, Rutigliano went with him. He spent eleven seasons with four NFL teams before he was tapped for the head coaching job at Cleveland. It was a 1977 Christmas present. He was brought to the attention of Browns' owner Art Modell by then Cleveland general manager Peter Hadhazy who had known Sam when they both worked for the New England Patriots.

In the three years Rutigliano has coached the Browns, they've improved every year from an 8-8 mark in 1978 to an 11-5 record and a spot in the playoffs in 1980. After only one season, Modell rewarded Rutigliano with a new five-year contract. And after the 1980 season, quarterback Brian Sipe called the coach a "miracle worker."

"Give the credit for what we've accomplished to Sam," said Sipe. "He's the one who deserves it."

It is curious that both Sipe and Rutigliano took a lot of heat after Cleveland's frigid playoff loss to the Oakland Raiders when Sipe threw the interception. It will be remembered as the most second-guessed play of 1980. Should Rutigliano have called on Don Cockroft for a field goal attempt into the teeth of that wind rushing off Lake Erie? Should Brian Sipe have thrown the ball away?

The only person who hasn't second-guessed it is Sam Rutigliano. The Browns got there by the forward pass and well, frankly, they "danced with who they brung." And the coach told



his despondent quarterback, "Let's not let this one play destroy what we have built." And he's persuaded that, to a man, the Cleveland Browns are resolved to grow from that disheartening setback. It's just Sam's way, that's all.

The man has known some trouble.

He and Barbara lost a daughter, Nancy, when she was only four and a half years old. It was August 17, 1962, and Sam had fallen asleep at the wheel of the car.

"You know, we go through life and we say that we believe. We say we have faith. Then we have a tragedy. And we've looked at tragedy as something that happens to others. We say 'It can't happen to me. But it does happen to us. And when it does happen, then we say 'Why me, God?' So there I was, in a dark room, reaching around and trying to find God. Then the next year Barbara had a full-term pregnancy and we lost that child. And we had to regroup; we had to reconstruct our life and our family. It was a time of great suffering and we kept suffering until we really learned the meaning of 'Not my will, but Thine.' Then when we accepted that, we be-

gan to grow spiritually. As I look back on it now, I think the Lord really chose me.

"Now, since then, so many good things have happened to us. We've done so much better professionally than we ever had a right to expect, but more than that we've had so many more blessings. We've had two wonderful daughters since then [there are three Rutigliano children; Paul 24, Allison 16 and Kerry 14] and we have tremendous inner strength.

"Although life is never really the same after something like that, it gets much richer when you really are able to surrender yourself to the Lord. And that's why I don't get caught up in the frustrations of football—like the loss to Oakland and the other setbacks we've had—that's why I don't get caught up with an ego trip.

"And people talk all the time about pressure, but pressure is mainly self-inflicted. To me, pressure is trying to figure out who you are or what you are, or being uncertain about yourself as a human being."

And he is confident that whatever pressure people might try to carry over

into 1981 from that playoff loss will be advantageous rather than a bad memory to haunt the players.

"Look, our players realize what our philosophy is. They know that we play to win, not to keep from losing. That's the personality of our team, to do what we did. As for how the players have reacted, I think the best example is what Brian Sipe told me at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii when he said he's more determined than ever to do even greater things in 1981. That's what this team is all about."

It is said that a team will take on the personality of its coach. Perhaps that's why nothing has come easy for the Browns in the three seasons under Sam Rutigliano, who's only the fifth coach the Browns have had in their long history.

They became known as the unforgettable "Kardiac Kids" and little wonder:

There were but 16 ticks left on the clock when Sipe passed to Dave Logan for the touchdown that beat Green Bay, 26 to 21.

It took an interception by Ron Bolton with 1:57 to play to save a 27 to 26 achievement over Pittsburgh.

A 28 to 27 triumph over the Baltimore Colts was preserved by Autry Beamon's recovery of an onside kick.

Ditto in the 27 to 21 verdict over the Chicago Bears. This time only 37 seconds remained.

Clarence Scott saved the 17 to 14 victory over Houston with an interception with only 1:17 to play.

The Browns needed a victory over Cincinnati to clinch the division title, but the 27 to 24 victory wasn't assured until Ron Bolton made a tackle at the Browns' 11-yard line.

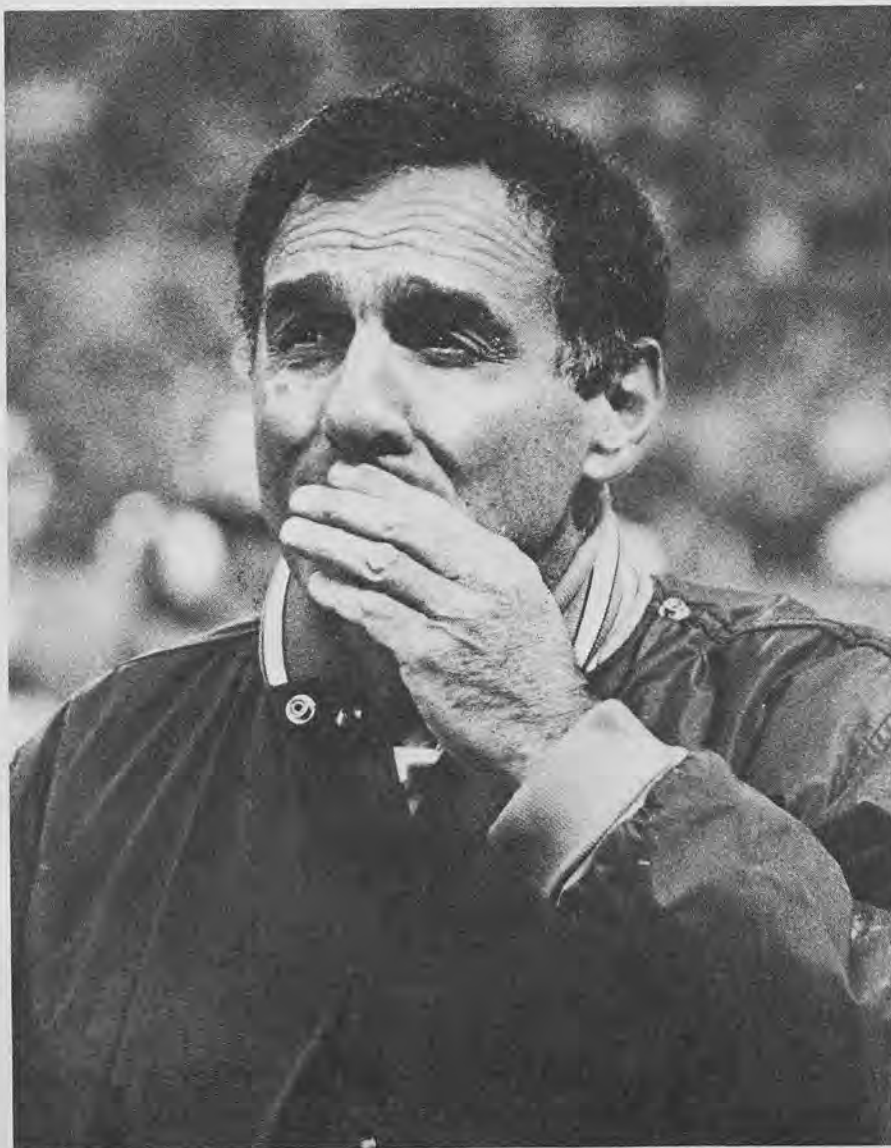
Some losses were just as pulsating:

There was Tommy Kramer's 'Hail Mary' touchdown pass to Ahmad Rashad as time expired: Minnesota 28, Cleveland 23.

Terry Bradshaw hit Lynn Swann with 0:11 left to give the Steelers a 16 to 13 decision.

But Rutigliano doesn't replay any of those games. They're part of his yesterdays and they're useful only insofar as he can grow from them. He believes what a philosopher once said, "What does not destroy me strengthens me." And more than that, he believes that God brings men into deep waters not to drown them, but to cleanse them.

He's no Pollyanna. He's traveled through some swampland and he knows where the alligators are. He understands that the fans can be fickle and the owners can have whims. ■



*"Reeves Loved The Game . . ."
". . . Davis Loves A Fight"*

PERSONAL



Football may not be Sam Rutigliano's whole life, but most NFL coaches, say their wives, would disagree with Sam's principle. Twenty-five to thirty-five years ago, a five-man NFL coaching staff was quite large, and it was not unusual for Hamp Pool, Sid Gillman, Buddy Parker, or Red Hickey to keep the lights burning at the office nearly until dawn many times during the week.

Later, coaching staffs began to grow and now a ten-man staff is common in pro football. Yet, most of today's head coaches still spend several nights a week burning the familiar candle brightly, although it seems to be more of a tradition than a necessity. Perhaps proof is the fact that the Minnesota Vikings have had a very successful franchise for twenty years with just two head coaches, neither of whom has been a prototypical candle-burner.

Candle burning neither qualifies nor disqualifies a head coach from inclusion on a list of unforgettables. So, if we may, we'd like to recall a few memorable events and people who have become unforgettable.

Pro football was an inside page, one-inch subject until that Thanksgiving Day of Nov. 29, 1934, when a broadcasting genius named George A. Richards, new owner of the NFL franchise which had been moved from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Detroit, decided that the NFL needed a little national attention. So he arranged a coast-to-coast NBC broadcast of the first of many Detroit Thanksgiving Day home games. The Bears were the visitors, as they were for many years, and NBC used two superb personalities, both of whom had spent considerable time in sports announcing, Graham McNamee and Don Wilson, to spread the NFL gospel across the nation.

On that day, we were glued to a wet cell battery radio several miles from any form of electrical power on a plantation near Orangeburg, South Carolina. My father and I considered the radio, which had been a gift to my mother, a fabulous depression-time luxury, and since we were both sports enthusiasts, we had an absolutely unforgettable time listening to McNamee's descriptions of runs by Beattie Feathers and Ernie Caddell, the play of quarterback Dutch Clark of the Lions and tackle Link Lyman of the Bears and the coaching of Detroit's Pot-sy Clark and Chicago's George Halas. Bronko Nagurski was there, and place-kicker "Automatic" Jack Manders meant the difference in a 19-16 Chicago Bears victory.

That began a love affair between a

REMINISCENCE

young fan in South Carolina and professional football, and the romance continues unabated.

Tuffy Leemans was the pride of George Washington University and writers such as Shirley Povich and Denman Thompson bemoaned the fact that there was no pro football in Washington so that the fans there could enjoy Leemans' professional career. But the great runner was drafted by the New York Giants in the very first NFL draft (1936). A year later George Marshall moved his Boston Redskins to town, only one year too late to draft Leemans.

Sammy Baugh, Cliff Battles, Riley Smith, and Ernie Pinckert were the first Washington Redskin backfield, and in their first year in Washington, the Skins swept to the NFL title. For the past 36 years fans had only the baseball Nats (Senators) to cheer, but with Walter Johnson retired, a new hero was needed. It was Baugh.

The Redskins always had great impact on future memories, even including the miserable, bitter 73-0 loss to the Bears for the title in 1940.

Baugh's versatility as a passer, signal caller (in his later years), defensive back, and punter was exceeded in the NFL only by that of Bob Waterfield, who in his rookie year (1945) defeated Baugh and company for the NFL title. It was the last time a rookie quarterback led a team to an NFL title, and in his rookie year (including preseason games), Waterfield scored six TDs the first nine times he called a "Sally Rand," designed as a naked reverse for the quarterback. He also was an outstanding placekicker, punter, defensive back, signal caller, and, of course, forward passer.

In 1948, Waterfield and the Rams were trailing the champs-to-be Eagles, 28-0, with two minutes left in the third quarter. Waterfield proceeded to pass the Eagles into oblivion, played defense himself and intercepted two vital passes, catching up to a 28-28 tie seconds before the game ended.

Though Ted Husing's description of the 1935 Notre Dame-Ohio State game was the best single football broadcast in the history of radio, the most talented professional football announcer was Bob Kelley, discovered at age 19 in Indiana, assigned to the Cleveland Rams in 1937, and the team's only full-time play-by-play announcer until his death in 1966. No broadcaster to this day has been able to put so many facts, so accurately and entertainingly, into a broadcast of a pro game. Football may not be Sam Rutigliano's whole life. It was Kelley's.

In 1949, an epic called, "Dewell in the Smog," was played in the unclean Los Angeles haze. On a sickening foul-air day, passer Paul Christman and receiver Billy Dewell came off the Chicago Cardinal bench in the waning moments. With the clock stopped and just one second to play, Christman called a long pass which was too high for Dewell, who managed only to tip it. The ball, newly propelled upward, continued its flight into the end zone, pursued by Dewell, who caught it on its second descent for a TD that turned defeat into victory.

Wally Triplett of the 1950 Detroit Lions ran four kickoffs back for an average of 73 yards per return but his team lost the game, 65-24, because the opposition scored 41 points in the third quarter.

Elroy Hirsch retired twice. After the first "final game," "Crazy Legs" was mobbed by fans as he left the field and arrived at the dressing room wearing only a jockstrap.

Dan Reeves, owner of the Rams, suffering from two physical hardships (an allergy to alcohol and Hodgkin's Disease), was the epitome of integrity. Before he died ten years ago, Reeves acknowledged and understood the fortunes being spent on scouting players and coaches, but warned that more time and (if necessary) money should be spent in scouting new owners. He felt that too many owners in a 26 team league did not know enough about each other. It was getting too easy to admit new owners of unknown quality, who might unknowingly destroy a game which had been created in love and (despite George Halas' alleged wire-tapping) with integrity of purpose.

On-the-field greatness through the years by Steve Van Buren, Wayne Millner, Jim Benton, Jerry Kramer, Mel Hein, Johnny Blood, Jim Brown, Danny Fortmann, Bobby Layne, Lou Groza, Otto Graham, Johnny Unitas, Paul Brown, Vince Lombardi, Kyle Rote, Y.A. Tittle, and many more are indelibly etched.

Off-the-field character and integrity, added to outstanding on-the-field ability, also have been exemplified by Les Richter, Irv Cross, O. J. Simpson, John Madden, Roger Staubach, Jon Kolb, Greg Brezina, Donnie Shell, Ken Houston, Pat Haden, Norm Evans, Don Cockroft, Tom Landry, John Stallworth, and many others whose dedication to service has exceeded normal requirements.

The most articulate and enthusiastic of all pro football fans may be Joe (J.P.) McCarthy, long-time WJR (Detroit) broadcast personality and the voice on many national General Motors TV

commercials. He's unforgettable.

One of the simplest, but most moving lines to appear in a book on pro football was written by Larry Fox in *Bert Jones and the Battling Colts* (Dodd, Mead). Fox recalls that Colts owner Robert Irsay, hardly a student of football, had leveled a strong verbal attack in 1976 on his head coach, Ted Marchibroda. Fox wrote, "On the bus to the airport, Irsay's 16-year-old son, Jimmy, who had been working in training camp as a ballboy, tearfully apologized to Marchibroda for his father's attack. 'Don't worry, son, you have nothing to apologize for. Your father is a good man,' said Marchibroda, himself the father of four." Though ultimately he was fired by Irsay, Marchibroda's words to Jimmy, under those trying circumstances, were admirable.

There is no chance that the current generation of NFL followers ever will forget Al Davis. The managing general partner of Oakland loves a fight and will pick one rather than suffer the agonizing serenity of non-combat.

Davis has, at times, turned the fighting instinct into righteousness. For instance, when his wife became desperately ill his determined battle to save her and lead her to recovery saw results. Also, this instinct has helped his team, purposely populated by a collection of misfits and very nice guys, to win an extraordinary number of NFL games through the years.

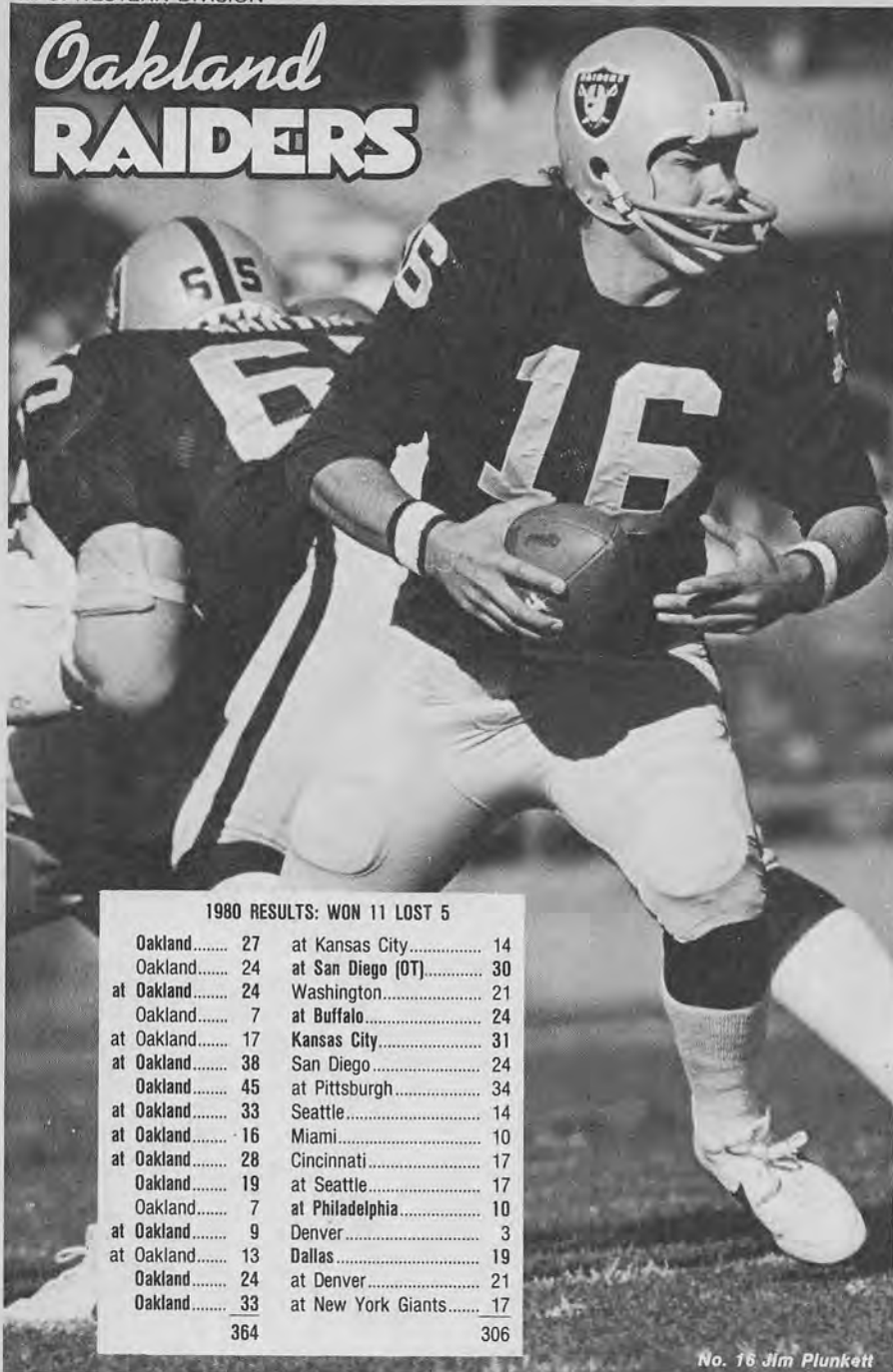
Davis will be remembered as the man who earned a finder's fee for selling a rival (same metropolitan area) franchise to people who threw it into chaos (to the potential box office benefit of the Raiders). Along that same line, he was the man who picked up simultaneous part-time scouting fees from at least two NFL teams while coaching at The Citadel, and later stated that during that time his prime loyalty actually had been to a third NFL team.

Davis secured his reputation when he did not deny that he was instrumental in negotiating the merger of the NFL and AFL while he was commissioner of the AFL. In truth he was completely unaware of the negotiations.

And he will be remembered for language so foul that a new national monthly publication, running much of its interview with him verbatim, was suddenly missing from the living room tables in some homes of gentility.

To his credit, his apparent Patton-like character has created magnificent football teams. Perhaps, in time, they will be even more unforgettable than their managing general partner. ■

Oakland RAIDERS



1980 RESULTS: WON 11 LOST 5

Oakland.....	27	at Kansas City.....	14
Oakland.....	24	at San Diego (OT).....	30
at Oakland.....	24	Washington.....	21
Oakland.....	7	at Buffalo.....	24
at Oakland.....	17	Kansas City.....	31
at Oakland.....	38	San Diego.....	24
Oakland.....	45	at Pittsburgh.....	34
at Oakland.....	33	Seattle.....	14
at Oakland.....	16	Miami.....	10
at Oakland.....	28	Cincinnati.....	17
Oakland.....	19	at Seattle.....	17
Oakland.....	7	at Philadelphia.....	10
at Oakland.....	9	Denver.....	3
at Oakland.....	13	Dallas.....	19
Oakland.....	24	at Denver.....	21
Oakland.....	33	at New York Giants.....	17
364		306	

No. 16 Jim Plunkett

We're not a bunch of choirboys and Boy Scouts," says Gene Upshaw, the elder statesman of the Oakland Raiders. "They say we're the halfway house of pro football. Well, we live up to that image every single chance we get."

They also try to embellish that image every chance they get. They have succeeded in painting a self-portrait as a band of outcasts and outlaws, pro football's version of the "Hole in the Wall Gang." They love the notion that they're villains, and they spur themselves on with the theme, "It's us against the world, boys." It's an effective gimmick. It also has served to obscure the fact that this is a collection of high-priced high draft choices who manage to play football extremely well when the spirit moves them.

They are a cleverly-melded combination of young and old; 24 of the 45 men on the Super Bowl roster had been in the NFL four years or less, and nine had been in the league nine years or more. Some of them had been rejected by other teams, but most of them had a common trait—talent.

Combine that talent with extremely good coaching and the 1980 result really is not so amazing. But can they do it again? Can the Raiders again win at least 11 games in the regular season and qualify for the playoffs?

It would not be surprising if they failed. Some of those old-timers now have more maturity than ability. They got through 1980 relatively free of serious injuries except for Dan Pastorini, and that proved to be a blessing in disguise because it provided for the resurrection of Jim Plunkett, the most notable of Raider reclamation projects. Quite simply, it took an almost perfect combination of luck and talent to get the Raiders into the throne room in the 1980 season.

But this is 1981.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Jim Plunkett wasn't the best passer in pro football last year (16 others had better statistics), but he certainly was the most consistent winner. His body battered and his confidence shattered in earlier years with the New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers, Plunkett had been assigned to two years of rest and relaxation by Oakland general manager Al Davis. And then in the third year, Plunkett made one of the most dramatic comebacks in pro football history. He again showed a knack for making the big play, becoming a frequent and accurate bomber. He no longer has the extraordinary physical talent that made him the No. 1 draft choice in the league a decade ago, but he makes up for it

Coaches: Tom Flores, Sam Boghosian, Willie Brown, Lew Erber, Chet Franklin, Earl Leggett, Joe Madro, Rob Mischak, Steve Ortmayer, Charlie Sumner, Ray Willsey.

OAKLAND RAIDERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth- date	College
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	175	6	2/3/53	Penn State
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	220	5	3/1/55	California
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR	6-1	195	8	10/19/52	Ohio State
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	10	8/1/49	Colorado
73	Browning, Dave	DE	6-4	245	4	8/18/56	Washington
77	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-6	250	5	5/8/55	Maryland
52	Celotto, Mario	LB	6-3	225	3	8/23/58	Southern California
85	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1	180	11	4/24/49	Southern California
88	Chester, Ray	TE	6-4	235	12	6/28/48	Morgan State
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-4	230	3	8/3/56	Brigham Young
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	10	10/19/50	UCLA
79	Davis, Bruce	DE	6-6	280	3	6/21/56	UCLA
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	200	4	4/15/56	Colorado
8	Guy, Ray	P	6-3	200	9	12/22/49	Southern Mississippi
86	Hardman, Cedrick	DE	6-4	245	12	10/4/48	North Texas State
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	5	1/22/55	Texas A&M
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	225	13	11/1/47	Miami
42	Jackson, Monte	CB	5-11	200	7	7/14/53	San Diego State
31	Jensen, Derrick	RB	6-1	225	3	4/27/56	Texas-Arlington
58	Johnson, Monte	LB	6-5	240	8	10/26/51	Nebraska

90	Jones, Willie	DE	6-4	245	3	11/22/57	Florida State
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	3	3/7/57	Oklahoma
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	DT	6-2	240	3	1/1/57	Oklahoma
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	8	9/26/51	Florida A&M
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	215	5	4/7/54	Southern California
89	Martini, Rich	WR	6-2	185	3	11/19/53	California-Davis
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	275	5	10/5/55	Tennessee
71	Mason, Lindsey	T	6-5	270	3	8/1/55	Kansas
43	Matthews, Ira	WR-RB	5-8	175	3	8/23/57	Wisconsin
72	Matuszak, John	DE	6-8	285	9	10/25/50	Tampa
57	McClanahan, Randy	LB	6-5	225	4	12/12/54	Southwestern Louisiana
23	McKinney, Odie	CB	6-2	185	4	5/19/57	Colorado
	Meseroll, Mark	T	6-5	275	2	7/22/55	Florida State
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	255	2	3/12/58	Penn State
36	Moody, Keith	CB	5-11	175	6	6/13/53	Syracuse
56	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	230	6	6/30/53	Nebraska
35	O'Steen, Dwayne	CB	6-1	195	4	12/20/54	San Jose State
44	Owens, Burgess	S	6-0	200	9	8/2/51	Miami
7	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6-3	205	11	5/26/49	Santa Clara
74	Pear, Dave	DT	6-2	250	7	6/1/53	Washington
47	Phillips, Charles	S	6-3	215	6	12/22/52	Southern California
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	210	11	12/15/47	Stanford
64	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-4	230	4	12/23/56	Kentucky
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	285	14	11/26/46	Maryland-Eastern Shore
0	Sims, Mickey	DT	6-5	270	4	3/5/55	South Carolina State
66	Sylvester, Steve	C-G	6-4	260	7	3/4/53	Notre Dame
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	15	8/15/45	Texas A&I
30	Van Eeghen, Mark	RB	6-2	225	8	4/19/52	Colgate
22	Whittington, Arthur	RB	5-11	180	4	9/4/55	Southern Methodist
8	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-5	210	2	2/15/57	Brigham Young
61	Winters, Jeff	DT	6-4	260	5	10/12/51	Southern California

with guile and cunning, a better sense of timing, and a better understanding of pro defenses. Another asset not to be overlooked is the privilege of playing behind that monstrous-sized offensive line.

Should Plunkett slump or be injured, the Raiders are likely to take a long look at Marc Wilson, the one-time Brigham Young whiz who was their first-round draft choice in 1980. Dan Pastorini, whose performance had been disappointing prior to his leg injury last year, was the subject of several trade rumors at press time. If the Raiders don't trade him, though, he could prove to be a perfect candidate for another of the Raiders' famed career rehabilitation projects.

Running backs—Mark van Eeghen has led the Raiders in rushing each of the past five seasons, but he's not the one that opposing defenses worry about. Young Kenny King, picked up from Houston for seldom used Jack Tatum, became Oakland's most explosive runner in many years, averaging 4.4 yards per carry in 1980. Van Eeghen, who was fourth in the AFC with 838 yards, still runs the most important play in the Oakland playbook (fullback up Upshaw's back), and provides an ideal partner for the flashy King, who earned his college scholarship at Oklahoma as a blocking back for Billy Sims. The veteran talent (Arthur Whittington, Derrick Jensen) in reserve is skimpy.

Receivers—Their roles are well-defined. Cliff Branch gets to go deep (if he isn't benched for skipping practice during the week). Tight end Raymond Chester is the guy who gets the call on third down. And Bobby Chandler plays the role of Fred Biletnikoff, catching the sideline patterns and the curl-ins. None of them catches very many passes; Chandler, the team's leading receiver with 49 catches was 43rd in the NFL, but they make their catches count. Chandler was second in the league in touchdown receptions (10) and Branch's average of 19.5 yards per catch was fifth best in the NFL. But a word of warning: Branch, the youngest of the trio, is in his 10th year in the league. None of the reserve receivers caught more than six passes last year, although one of them, Morris Bradshaw, can be dangerous.

Offensive line—They're a collection of old hands, and they know every trick in the book. They use those tricks, too. Art Shell and Gene Upshaw, who once made the left side of the Raider line the best in the league, aren't as good as they were 14 or 15 years ago, but they're still an excellent tandem. Dave Dalby, whose durability has permitted him to make 136 consecutive starts, is one of the better



Kenny King

centers in the league. And right guard Mickey Marvin, who is a new team spiritual leader, may be the best of all the Raider linemen, although he's still overshadowed by the big names to his left. Right tackle Henry Lawrence does excellent work some weeks, but is merely adequate at other times. The depth, Steve Sylvester, Lindsey Mason, Bruce Davis, is virtually untested.

DEFENSE

Line—Their job is to knock down the blockers so that superstar Ted Hendricks can be a superstar, and they handle their duties quite nicely. Mammoth John Matuszak doesn't provide much of a pass rush but is solid against the run. The other end in the Raiders' 3-4 alignment, Dave Browning, is adept at handling both the pass and the run. One of the better nose tackles is Reggie Kinlaw, now in his third year. Reserve end Willie Jones is summoned to replace Matuszak when a pass rush is needed, and nose tackle Dave Pear comes in when Kinlaw needs a breather.

Linebackers—The real strength of the 1980 Raiders was the defense, and the strength of the defense was the linebacker corps. Ted Hendricks, permitted to free-lance

extensively, was superb at making big plays. He's surrounded by good, young talent. Undersized Rod Martin, a one-time Jet who has given Oakland outstanding work for two years, was a star in the Super Bowl when he made three interceptions. Bob Nelson, a former Buffalo Bill who plays one of the interior spots, performed well as a replacement for veteran Monte Johnson, who missed 1980 with an injury. And Matt Millen, a one-time collegiate tackle, maintained Penn State's reputation for producing terrific linebackers by making the switch in positions his rookie year. Although he's weak on pass coverage, he's a brick wall against the run. The subs, Randy McClanahan and Jeff Barnes, see most of their action on passing plays.

Secondary—Lester Hayes, the human glue jar, was the talk of the NFL when 13 passes happened to hit his body and stick. Besides that, he was a superb cornerback. And he says he won't miss the outlawed "stickum." Teams tested him repeatedly (a major factor in his interception total), and he was more than equal to the task. He rarely permits a quarterback to get away with a mistake. The other corner, Dwayne O'Steen, proved a pleasant surprise after replacing ousted ex-star Monte Jackson in the line-up. Getting double-team support regularly helps him, too.

The safeties are New York Jet retiree Burgess Owens, whose savvy enabled him to return three interceptions for touchdowns last year, and fourth-year man Mike Davis, who makes up for a lack of great speed by being a punishing hitter. The most dependable of the relief men is youthful Odis McKinney, who doubles as a cornerback and safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

"My wife calls me 'Much-Maligned,'" says placekicker Chris Bahr. "She thinks that's my first name. Every time she reads a story about me, that's always in front of my name." If his accuracy on kicks inside the 40 slips, she might soon be calling him ex-Raider, too. Bahr, whose range is limited, knocked through 13 of 18 field goal tries inside the 40, but was only 6 for 19 beyond 40 yards.

Distance is no problem for Ray Guy, the best punter west of New York's Dave Jennings. He enables the Raiders to play the field position game more effectively than any other team in the business. His average of 43.6 yards in 1981 included 31 punts downed inside the 20 or in the end zone.

Less outstanding is the work of kickoff and punt returner Ira Matthews. Unless his kickoff return work begins to resemble his 1979 rookie performance he may be out of a job.



THE DRAFT

The Raiders got one for today and several for tomorrow when they went shopping in the draft last April.

Ted Watts, the cornerback from Texas Tech whom the Raiders made their No. 1 choice, may push right cornerback Dwayne O'Steen out of a starting job quickly. He's got great ability, and should make a terrific backend for Lester Hayes.

The rest of the Oakland picks were taken with the future in mind. Curt Marsh is a 290-pound tackle figured on as the replacement for Art Shell in a year or so, and defensive linemen Howard Long and Johnny Robinson will also be good ones. Later, Long still hasn't finished growing, and after a couple of years in Al Davis's incubator he could really be something. Robinson, a fourth rounder from Louisiana Tech, may be a real find at nose tackle and make teams regret they let him go unclaimed until the fourth round.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	(From Houston)			
	Ted Watts	21	DB	Texas Tech
1.	(From Buffalo)			
	Curt Marsh	23	OT	Washington
1.	(Choice to Buffalo)			
2.	(From Houston)			
	Howie Long	48	DT	Villanova
2.	(Choice to Miami)			
3.	(Choice to Buffalo)			
	Johnny Robinson	111	DT	Louisiana Tech
5.	(From Tampa Bay)			
	James Davis	118	DB	Southern U.
5.	(Choice forfeited)			
6.	(Choice to New Orleans)			
7.	(Choice to Houston)			
8.	(Choice to New York Giants)			
9.	Carl Wahl	243	OT	UCLA
10.	Frank Hawkins	276	RB	Nevada-Reno
11.	Chester Willis	304	RB	Auburn
12.	Phil Nelson	332	TE	Delaware

San Diego CHARGERS

No. 26 John Cappelletti

1980 RESULTS: WON 11 LOST 5

San Diego....	34	at Seattle.....	13
at San Diego....	30	Oakland (OT).....	24
San Diego....	30	at Denver.....	13
San Diego....	24	at Kansas City.....	7
at San Diego....	24	Buffalo.....	26
San Diego....	24	at Oakland.....	38
at San Diego....	44	New York Giants.....	7
San Diego....	31	at Dallas.....	42
San Diego....	31	at Cincinnati.....	14
at San Diego....	13	Denver.....	20
at San Diego....	20	Kansas City.....	7
San Diego....	27	at Miami.....	24
at San Diego....	22	Philadelphia.....	21
San Diego....	17	at Washington.....	40
at San Diego....	21	Seattle.....	14
at San Diego....	26	Pittsburgh.....	17
418		327	

They are the ultimate in what a good hit, no field team should be. Score and let score, just keep the numbers on the scoreboard twirling; that's the way they play the game. They're not always successful in winning, but they're never dull.

They rolled up yardage in 1980 as no one ever had done in pro football history—6410 for the season, 401 per game. They weren't reluctant to share, either. Their generosity made them one of the easiest teams in the conference to score against; only the haven't Colts, Jets, Chiefs, and Seahawks gave up more points than San Diego's 21 per game.

And the fans loved it.

Never mind the three yards and a cloud of dust, a touchdown-every-30-minutes routine

that has made some NFL teams the answer to an insomniac's prayer. The hyperactive Chargers believe in 30 yards and a cloud of dust, a touchdown every three minutes, your end zone or mine?

They called far more pass plays (652) than runs (509), a formula that has been made to work for a championship just once in NFL history (by a special guy named Unitas). And never mind that the Chargers didn't make it to the Super Bowl in '80; we had fun watching them try.

They'll do it again in '81, too. But this time, things may be a little different. This time they have the highly respected Jack Pardee to oversee the defense (even gave him the title of assistant head coach), and he may slow

down some of the excitement at Charger games. If he's successful, the boys from Southern California may find themselves in a Super Bowl game in fair weather Pontiac, Michigan.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—With the departure of Joe Gibbs to become head coach of the Washington Redskins, Dan Fouts now will have his fifth offensive coordinator in six years. But does it really matter? After passing for nearly 9000 yards during the past two seasons, can't Fouts operate on automatic pilot? The calls in the huddle are simple: "Receivers go long, linemen block, Muncie and Thomas take a breather" on pass plays, and occasionally,

Coaches: Don Coryell, Marv Braden, Earnel Durden, Dave Levy, Jack Pardee, Jerry Smith, Jim Wagstaff, Larry Weaver, Ernie Zampese.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
60	Audick, Dan	T-G	6-3	253	4	11/15/54	Hawaii
37	Bauer, Hank	RB	5-11	200	5	7/15/54	Cal-Lutheran
8	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-1	175	5	2/7/55	California-Davis
82	Brooks, Billy	WR	6-3	202	4	7/20/53	Oklahoma
28	Buchanan, Willie	CB	6-0	185	10	11/4/50	San Diego State
25	Cappelletti, John	RB	6-1	220	7	8/9/52	Penn State
73	De Jurnett, Charles	DE	6-4	260	6	6/17/52	San Jose State
71	Dean, Fred	DT	6-2	230	7	2/28/52	Louisiana Tech
48	Dove, Jerome	CB	6-2	193	5	10/3/53	Colorado State
47	Duncan, Frank	S	6-1	168	3	11/6/56	San Francisco State
27	Edwards, Glen	S	6-0	183	11	7/31/47	Florida A&M
86	Floyd, John	WR	6-1	195	3	9/10/56	Northeast Louisiana
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	210	9	6/10/51	Oregon
42	Fuller, Mike	S	5-9	182	7	4/7/53	Auburn
34	Harrington, La Rue	RB	6-0	210	2	6/28/57	Norfolk State
12	Harris, James	QB	6-3	221	12	7/20/47	Grambling
59	Horn, Bob	LB	6-4	230	6	2/6/54	Oregon State
29	Jackson, Bernard	S	6-0	180	10	8/24/50	Washington State
83	Jefferson, John	WR	6-1	198	4	2/3/56	Arizona State
79	Johnson, Gary	DT	6-2	252	7	8/31/53	Grambling
18	Joiner, Charlie	WR	5-11	183	13	10/14/47	Grambling

65	Jones, Leroy	DE	6-8	260	6	9/29/50	Norfolk State
74	Kelcher, Louie	DT	6-5	282	7	8/23/53	Southern Methodist
57	King, Linden	LB	6-4	230	4	6/28/55	Colorado State
54	Laslaye, Jim	LB	6-2	236	8	10/24/51	Penn State
69	Lee, John	DE	6-2	259	6	2/17/53	Nebraska
64	Loewen, Chuck	G-T	6-3	259	2	1/23/57	South Dakota State
51	Low, Woodrow	LB	6-0	227	6	6/9/54	Alabama
11	Luther, Ed	QB	6-3	206	2	1/2/57	San Jose State
62	Mack, Don	C-G	6-2	253	6	7/2/54	Boston College
88	McCrory, Gregg	TE	6-3	235	8	3/24/52	Clerk
58	McGee, Carl	LB	6-3	228	2	7/15/56	Duke
46	Muncie, Chuck	RB	6-3	233	5	3/17/53	California
75	Nicholson, Jim	T	6-6	275	7	2/28/49	Michigan State
17	Partridge, Rick	P	6-1	175	3	8/26/57	Utah
53	Perretta, Ralph	G-C	6-2	251	7	1/30/53	Purdue
52	Perry, Scott	CB	6-0	180	6	3/11/54	Williams
56	Preston, Ray	LB	6-0	216	6	1/25/54	Syracuse
6	Rush, Bob	C	6-5	264	5	2/27/55	Memphis State
41	Russell, Booker	RB	6-2	235	4	2/28/56	Southwest Texas
87	Scales, Dwight	WR	6-2	185	5	5/30/53	Grambling
44	Slaw, Pete	S	5-10	178	5	8/25/54	Northwestern
66	Shields, Billy	T	6-8	275	7	8/23/53	Georgia Tech
84	Smith, Ron	WR	6-0	185	4	11/20/56	San Diego State
45	Stringert, Hal	CB	5-11	182	7	1/2/52	Hawaii
22	Thomas, Mike	RB	5-11	190	7	7/17/53	Nevada-Las Vegas
59	Thrill, Clifford	LB	6-2	232	3	5/3/56	East Central Oklahoma
70	Washington, Russ	T	6-7	288	14	12/17/46	Missouri
67	White, Ed	G	6-2	171	13	4/4/47	California
38	Whittington, C. L.	CB-S	6-2	195	6	8/1/53	Prairie View A&M
63	Wilkerson, Doug	G	6-3	262	12	3/27/47	North Carolina Central
40	Williams, Clarence	RB	5-10	195	5	1/25/55	South Carolina

just to change things, "Hand off to Muncie, and everybody else be alert for the fumble." It's exciting football.

Throwing deep so often can result in interceptions, and despite his 4715 yards, 30 touchdowns, and 59 percent completion rate, Fouts was only the sixth-rated passer in the NFL in 1980. The reason: 24 interceptions. But the giveaways are no deterrent to pitching on almost every play, and Fouts may be the first man to need a bionic arm transplant before his 31st birthday.

The relief pitchers are James Harris, who never even got into a game last year, and Ed Luther, who played often enough to try just three passes.

Running backs—Sort of a junior version of the Bad Oakland Raiders, the Chargers have made their locker room a haven for other teams' castoffs, none more notable than running backs Chuck Muncie and Mike Thomas, who had worn out welcomes in New Orleans and Washington. Muncie's physical ability may be the best in the business, maybe even exceeding more honored stars such as Campbell, Payton, and Sims. But Muncie marches to his own drummer. He averaged 4.9 yards on 135 carries for the Chargers. If Charger coach Don Coryell can control Chuck's wayward tendencies, San Diego will have a splendid diversion to befuddle the opposition. And if not... well, they got along without him before they met him.

Thomas was a disappointment, despite averaging 4.1 yards per carry. He was given the ball 118 times and never took it farther than 18 yards. His longest run was no better than a short Fouts pass.

Receivers—This is where the gold is buried. It's doubtful any team has ever had a finer trio of catchers than John Jefferson, Charlie Joiner, and Kellen Winslow.

"When I leave the game, I want to be remembered as one of the best," says Jefferson. Barring a premature end to his career by injury, it's likely that he'll be successful. He's an astounding acrobat who makes seemingly impossible catches, but he also gets a little help from his friends.

"For any team to double cover us," says Fouts, "they'd have to play with six defensive backs." And then, that might not be enough. Joiner's precision routes aren't easily covered. And then there's Winslow, the 6'6", 255-pounder who became the first tight end in 14 years to catch passes for more than 1000 yards. He caught more passes than anybody at his position in history—not bad for a kid who passed up football for chess until he was a senior in high school.

For the year, Winslow caught 89 for 1290



No. 46 Chuck Muncie

yards, Jefferson 82 for 1340, Joiner 71 for 1132. As a unit, they had 242 catches, 3762 yards, and 26 touchdowns. And in case you were wondering, the backups, Ron Smith and John Floyd, aren't bad either.

Offensive Line—The biggest and oldest offensive line in existence may be a little smaller and younger if Russ Washington, the 34-year old mountain at right tackle, can't make a comeback from a serious knee operation. He was a perennial All-Pro before being hurt. If he comes back, he'll again play alongside 271-pound strongman Ed White, giving the Chargers nearly 600 pounds of pass blocking on that side. The center is Don Macek, who's capable, and the left guard is Doug Wilkerson, a 12-year veteran who's one of the finest pulling guards the game has seen. The least known of the starters is Billy Shields, but he has only been around for seven years. By Charger offensive line standards, he's a newcomer. If Washington can't play, the spot will be manned either by Dan Audick, who played there last year, or second-year man Chuck Loewen.

DEFENSE

Line—Jerry Smith was the ringmaster at Baltimore in the days when The Sack Pack terrorized the NFL. His credo as defensive line coach then seemed to be: Go for the passer, and let the devil tend to the run. Smith is now the ringmaster at San Diego, and the message

is the same. The Chargers lead the NFL in quarterback sacks, at the expense of stopping the run. Not that the fellows get trampled. Not at all. These guys, Fred Dean, Gary Johnson, Louie Kelcher, Leroy Jones with a combined weight of 1024 pounds, don't get run over very easily. Johnson, who had an NFL-high 17½ sacks in 1980, is the best rusher, while Kelcher is the best crusher. Both are All-Pro. There isn't a better pair of defensive tackles anywhere. Dean can play better than he did in '80, when he had a variety of personal problems and injuries. Jones is a journeyman, a good one. The subs, John Lee and Charles DeJurnett, are capable.

Linebackers—Teams love to target Ray Preston with their passing attacks. Woodrow Lowe and Bob Horn are the other starters in a threesome that's not about to make anybody forget the glory days of the Steelers. Obviously, there's room for improvement here. Perhaps the arrival of Pardee can help. Perhaps a little less responsibility in covering for the wild pass rush would help, too.

Secondary—This is a nice place to live. With the front four striking fear deep into the hearts of opposing quarterbacks, Charger defensive backs don't have to be concerned with pass coverage as much as backs on teams that have tortoise-speed lines. Given the added help from the guys up front, this is a good unit.

Cornerbacks Mike Williams and Willie Buchanan are excellent, although Buchanan is past his prime. The safeties, Mike Fuller and Glen Edwards, are a pair of well-seasoned veterans who are hard to fool. The reserves returning from last year, Frank Duncan, Jerome Dove, and Scott Perry, have yet to prove they can be stars.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rolf Benirschke, the placekicker who came back in 1980 after a life-threatening illness, is one of the most inspiring stories in sports. He's also in a class by himself among San Diego special teamers.

Benirschke had a magnificent season in his comeback year of '80, making 24 of 36 field goal tries, including 3 of 6 beyond 50 yards. The Chargers wish their punter, Rick Partridge, could have gotten such distance last year. Partridge punted for only 39.1 yards, and he'd better keep a steady eye over his shoulder in training camp this year.

The same is true of kickoff returner. Really, the job is open. It probably wouldn't hurt Chuck Muncie's feelings at all if they relieved him of this hazardous duty. Mike Fuller, the punt returner, is a good one, averaging 9.9 yards per return last year.

29 Williams, Mike	DB	5-10	179	7	11/22/53	Louisiana State
80 Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	252	3	11/5/57	Missouri
16 Wood, Mike	K	5-11	199	3	9/9/54	Southeast Missouri
99 Young, Wilbur	DE	6-6	290	11	4/20/49	William Penn



THE DRAFT

Don Coryell never has forgotten how much fun it was to have little Terry Metcalf in his lineup at St. Louis several years ago, and he intends to relive those days. He used two of his early draft choices, first and fourth rounders, to get a pair of highly-touted sub-six footers, James Brooks of Auburn and Famous Amos Lawrence of North Carolina. Brooks can be more than a novelty; he can be a fine replacement for Chuck Muncie when needed. Lawrence had some fantastic totals in college, but there's doubt about his ability as a regular at this level.

Third round pick Ervin Phillips, a cornerback, has impressive raw ability, but needs time to develop. Ditto linebacker Keith Ferguson. And then there's Eric Sievers, the fourth round tight end candidate from Maryland. Unlike most Charger receivers, he's a blocker.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	James Brooks	24	RB	Auburn
2.	(Choice to New Orleans)			
3.	Ervin Phillips	77	DB	Arkansas Tech
4.	Famous Amos Lawrence	103	RB	North Carolina
5.	(From Cleveland)			
6.	Eric Sievers	107	TE	Maryland
7.	Keith Ferguson	131	DB	Ohio State
8.	(From New York Giants)			
9.	Andrew Ginstinger	141	OT	Syracuse
10.	Bobby Duckworth	162	WR	Arkansas
11.	Pete Holohan	189	TE	Notre Dame
12.	(Choice to New Orleans)			
13.	(Used this choice in 1980 supplementary draft)			
14.	Robert Parham	268	RB	Grambling
15.	(From New York Giants)			
16.	Matt Patzelica	280	OT	Iowa
17.	Carlos Bradley	300	LB	Wake Forest
18.	Stacy Charles	327	WR	Bethune-Cookman

Kansas City CHIEFS



1980 RESULTS: WON 8 LOST 8

at Kansas City	14	Oakland.....	27
at Kansas City	16	Seattle.....	17
Kansas City	13	at Cleveland.....	20
at Kansas City	7	San Diego.....	24
Kansas City	31	at Oakland.....	17
at Kansas City	21	Houston.....	20
Kansas City	23	at Denver.....	17
at Kansas City	20	Detroit.....	17
at Kansas City	24	Baltimore.....	31
Kansas City	31	at Seattle.....	30
Kansas City	7	at San Diego.....	20
Kansas City	21	at St. Louis.....	13
at Kansas City	6	Cincinnati.....	20
at Kansas City	31	Denver.....	14
Kansas City	16	at Pittsburgh.....	21
Kansas City	38	at Baltimore.....	28
	319		336

They have been patient and methodical, slowly stacking one stone atop another. The wisdom of that method finally is beginning to show, and before very long the Kansas City Chiefs can expect to be championship contenders.

They've come a long way from the depths of that 2-12 season four years ago, and their 8-8 record in 1980 was their first non-losing season in eight years. They did it by making great improvements in their ability to score, boosting their point total by 81 points over the previous seasons. That was attributable to the work of placekicker Nick Lowery, who had a marvelous season, to punt returner J. T. Smith and to young quarterback Steve Fuller, who had a much better idea of what to do after getting his team within scoring range than he did in 1979, his rookie season.

The improved scoring came despite a decline in offensive yardage as the Chiefs slipped from 27th to 28th. Whether they're capable of showing much improvement this year will depend largely on whether a porous offensive line can become a tight unit and whether coach Marv Levy can find a running back who can add respectability to the Chiefs' ground game.

The defense is developing quite nicely, with two key members already gaining star status and others apparently headed in that same direction.

Kansas City tied for third place last season, the first time in four years that the Chiefs were not in last place.

They may be stronger this season, but the improvement may not be evident in the standings. Kaycee has the misfortune of doing business in the AFC West, probably the toughest division in the league.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—"It's obvious that we have to improve on offense," says Levy, "although the position of quarterback is better off than it has been in years." To be more precise, better off than it has been since Len Dawson was at the controls in the early 1970s. Fuller, who left Clemson three years ago with a 3.93 grade point average as a pre-law student, says, "The worst part is over. I'm having less trouble reading defenses than I did before."

The figures support his claim. He was fourth in the AFC in passing proficiency last season, ahead of such notables as Bert Jones, Terry Bradshaw, Jim Plunkett, and Jim Zorn. There were two keys to Fuller's high rating: he had a high completion percentage (60.3) and a low interception percentage (3.8). The numbers reflect a cautious, low-risk style of attack,

Coaches: Marv Levy, Rick Abernethy, Tom Bresnahan, Walt Corey, Ted Cottrill, Kay Dalton, Frank Ganz, Don Lawrence, Bobby Ross, Rod Rust.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1	237	7	8/12/54	Michigan State
26	Barbaro, Gary	S	6-4	204	6	2/11/54	Nicholls State
85	Buckman, Ed	TE	6-4	226	5	1/2/55	Florida State
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-5	255	2	8/30/57	Colorado State
35	Belton, Horace	RB	5-8	200	4	7/16/55	Southeastern Louisiana
25	Blackwell, Alois	RB	5-10	190	2	11/12/54	Houston
57	Blanton, Jerry	LB	6-1	225	3	12/20/56	Kentucky
66	Budde, Brad	G	6-4	255	2	5/9/58	Southern California
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-10	172	2	12/28/58	Louisiana State
42	Carter, M. L.	CB	5-9	173	3	12/9/55	Cal State-Fullerton
41	Christopher, Herb	S	5-10	190	3	4/7/54	Morris Brown
2	Clements, Tom	QB	6-0	183	2	6/18/53	Notre Dame
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	254	6	10/26/52	Boston College
84	Dixon, Al	TE	6-5	220	5	4/5/54	Iowa State
46	Dombroski, Paul	CB	6-0	185	2	8/8/56	Linfild
4	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	198	3	1/5/57	Clemson
23	Gant, Earl	RB	6-0	207	3	7/6/57	Missouri
5	Garcia, Bubba	WR	5-11	185	2	10/18/57	Texas-El Paso
77	Getty, Charlie	T	6-4	269	8	7/24/52	Penn State
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11	184	5	10/22/55	Baylor
1	Grupp, Bob	P	5-11	193	3	5/8/55	Duke
48	Hadnot, James	RB	6-2	244	2	7/11/57	Texas Tech

44	Harris, Eric	CB	6-3	191	2	8/11/55	Memphis State
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T	6-4	270	6	4/2/51	Minnesota
75	Hicks, Sylvester	DE	6-4	252	4	4/2/55	Tennessee State
52	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-2	208	5	8/18/54	Texas Tech
51	Jackson, Charles	LB	6-2	220	4	3/2/55	Washington
9	Kenney, Bill	QB	5-4	210	3	1/20/55	Northern Colorado
91	Kremer, Ken	DE-NT	6-4	250	3	7/16/57	Ball State
71	Lindstrom, Dave	DE	6-6	257	4	11/16/54	Boston University
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	190	2	5/27/56	Dartmouth
74	Mangiero, Dino	NT	6-2	265	2	12/19/58	Rutgers
54	Manumaleuga, Frank	LB	6-2	245	3	5/9/56	San Jose State
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	5-2	214	6	8/9/54	Missouri
22	McKnight, Ted	RB	5-1	216	4	2/26/54	Minnesota-Duluth
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB	5-11	205	5	3/27/52	Hawaii
72	Oates, Brad	T	6-6	270	6	9/30/53	Brigham Young
61	Parrish, Don	NT	6-2	259	4	4/6/55	Pittsburgh
53	Paul, Whitney	LB	6-3	220	6	10/8/53	Colorado
50	Peterson, Cal	LB	6-4	220	6	10/16/52	UCLA
31	Reese, Jerry	S	6-3	192	3	1/7/55	Oklahoma
87	Rome, Stan	WR	6-5	205	3	6/4/56	Clemson
27	Rose, Donovan	CB	6-1	180	2	3/9/57	Hampton
70	Rourke, Jim	G	6-5	255	2	2/10/57	Boston College
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-2	242	12	11/20/47	Northwestern
55	Sanders, Clarence	LB	6-4	230	2	12/28/52	Cincinnati
73	Simmons, Bob	G	6-4	260	5	7/7/54	Texas
86	Smith, J. T.	KR-WR	6-2	185	4	10/29/55	North Texas State
59	Spanil, Gary	LB	6-2	230	4	1/9/56	Kansas State
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	252	4	12/5/55	Kentucky
68	Wellman, Mike	C	6-3	253	2	7/15/56	Kansas
40	Williams, Mike	RB	6-3	222	3	10/14/57	New Mexico

and before Levy puts more pizzazz in the Chiefs' offense, he must fit it with better talent at some of the receiver spots and find a quality running back.

The quarterback depth is provided by Bill Kenney, who has a stronger passing arm than Fuller, and led the Chiefs to two wins in three games when Fuller was hurt late in the year. Also on hand is Tom Clements, who sat on the Kaycee bench in 1980 after being the best quarterback in the Canadian League the previous five years.

Running backs—The Chiefs' ground attack could more accurately be called a surrender. Kansas City's busiest runner last year was Ted McKnight, with 206 carries, but none of his gains was longer than 25 yards. In fact, the longest run of the year was a scramble by quarterback Fuller (38 yards), who also led the team in rushing touchdowns (4). McKnight's non-performance (3.4 yards per carry) came as a surprise, because he had averaged 4.9 yards per carry the year before. The fullback is James Hadnot, who did not in his rookie season. He averaged 3.2 yards per carry and his longest gain was 11 yards. At least he blocks well. Also competing for playing time are veterans Horace Belton and Arnold Morgado.

Receivers—Henry Marshall and J. T. Smith have been adequate at the wide receiver spots, but the Chiefs got absolutely no production from their tight ends. That should change this season with the addition of Willie Scott and Marvin Harvey, two of the three top-rated tight ends in the April draft. Scott figures to be the regular, with Harvey, who's less of a blocker, to be used in a style similar to Cleveland's Ozzie Newsome or San Diego's Kellen Winslow. If he provides equal service, the Chiefs will be dangerous.

Marshall does good work at one of the wide receiver spots, catching 47 passes (6 TDs) for an average of 17 yards last year. Smith, better known for being the league's best punt returner, continues to improve steadily as a catcher. Carlos Carson, who did little his rookie season, has the speed to bolster the wide receiver corps even further.

Offensive line—Jim Rourke, a rookie so lightly regarded that nobody bothered to draft him, started at three different offensive line positions for the Chiefs in 1980, which should tell you something about why Kansas City had the least potent attack in the business. Not that the Chiefs' linemen were that bad. They were, however, that injured. Rourke was the designated emergency man, plugging each new vacancy opened by injury. Now that everyone is healthy again, the Chiefs should have an improved front wall. Jack Rudnay, a



12-year veteran, is still one of the better centers in the league, and second-year guard Brad Budde has been labeled a future superstar. Tackles Charlie Getty and Matt Herkenhoff, who spent the latter part of the season on the injured reserve list, are back to reclaim their jobs from Rourke and Bob Simmons, who spent the latter part of the season in the starting lineup. The fifth starter, veteran right guard Tom Condon, is adequate. Reserves who received more experience than expected last year are center Charlie Ane and tackle Brad Oates.

DEFENSE

Line—They say that Art Still is the best in Kansas City, the team's most valuable player the past two years. The towering (6' 7", 252 pounds) defensive end also may be the best anywhere. Despite constant double-teaming, he had 14 sacks in 1980, 10 more than anybody else on the team. That imbalance could be remedied if Mike Bell, the second player picked in the 1979, can stay healthy long enough to earn his keep. Bell has spent much of his first two years in the league being tended by the Chiefs' medicine men. If healthy, Bell can be a terror, and along with Still could give the Chiefs the best set of defensive ends in the NFL. When Bell can't play, either Dave Lindstrom or Ken Kremer can. The nose tackle in this 3-4 alignment is Don Parrish, who provides little in the way of a pass rush but does an adequate job of plugging the middle.

Linebackers—Gary Spani has established himself as a fixture in the middle of the defense, and he does good work. But he's only one-fourth of a four-man lineup. Neither Jerry Blanton nor Frank Manumaleuga has proved capable of handling the job. The situation on the flanks is even worse. Thomas Howard's performance improved last year, when he was fourth on the team in tackles, but he's a bit small at 208 pounds. The other outside linebacker spot was handled last year by Cal Petersen and Whitney Paul, neither of whom is likely to be an all-league choice. Outside linebacker remains the position at which the Chiefs most need to find improvement, but the situation is hardly desperate. Help could come from Dave Klug, a fourth-round draft pick in 1980 who sat out his rookie season on the injured list.

Secondary—Two of them are among the best in the league at their positions and the two others aren't bad. Once the weakest part of the Chiefs' defense, the secondary has become a strength.

Free safety Gary Barbaro made 10 interceptions last year and was rewarded with a starting berth in the Pro Bowl. Cornerback Gary Green wasn't invited to the Pro Bowl, but he should have been. He might be the best corner in the NFL, but word hasn't gotten around yet. Eric Harris, an import from Canada, played the other corner well, pulling in seven interceptions. Herb Christopher has played the strong safety position, and although his size (5' 10", 190 pounds) causes him to be dwarfed by most tight ends he covers, he usually gets the job done. The subs are Jerry Reese, Paul Dombroski, and Donovan Rose.

SPECIAL TEAMS

No team is sufficiently equipped to excel in every area of special teams. Placekicker Nick Lowery almost never missed inside the 50 last year (16 of 19), and he wasn't bad at longer range, either, making four of seven kicks beyond 50 yards. His longest was a 57-yarder. The rookie from San Jose was pro football's best placekicker in 1980 although he, too, was snubbed in Pro Bowl consideration. Punter Bob Grupp lost four yards off his punting average, but still posted a respectable figure of 39.5 per kick. Kickoff returner Carlos Carson averaged a respectable 22.9 yards his rookie season, an encouraging performance.

But the Chiefs' special teams' superstar is punt returner J. T. Smith, whose average return of 14.5 yards last year was in a class by itself. His ability to give the Chiefs field position was an important factor in the team's improved scoring.



THE DRAFT

The Chiefs went from having no quality tight ends to having two, using a pair of picks in the first three rounds to get Willie Scott from South Carolina and Marvin Harvey from Southern Mississippi. Scott is the prize, touted as a young Riley Odoms. He was the top-rated tight end in the country. Harvey will be the deep man in KC's new double-tight end formation, he has wide receiver speed.

Kaycee scored elsewhere in this draft, too. Second-round pick Joe Delaney is a scaback-sized runner with 9.4 speed in the 100, and he's guaranteed to put some badly-needed zip into the Chiefs' ground game.

A pair of tackles, Roger Taylor and Todd Thomas, were taken in the third and fifth rounds, respectively, and they may help in the future. Of more immediate use might be strong safety Lloyd Burress, a third-round pick who could move in quickly.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Willie Scott	14	TE	South Carolina
2	Joe Delaney	41	RB	N. W. Louisiana State
3	Marvin Harvey	70	TE	Southern Methodist
3	Roger Taylor (From Denver)	75	OT	Oklahoma State
3	Lloyd Burress (From Los Angeles)	78	DB	Maryland
4	Ben Washington	97	WR	Arizona State
5	Todd Thomas	124	OT	North Dakota
6	Duck Luckie	153	DT	Florida
7	Billy Jackson	180	RB	Alabama
8	David Dorn	206	WR	Rutgers
9	Anthony Varoon	237	DB	Southeast Louisiana
10	Les Studard	262	OG	Texas
11	Frank Case	283	DE	Penn State
12	Bob Gagliano	319	QB	Utah State

Denver BRONCOS

1980 RESULTS: WON 8 LOST 8

Denver.....	6	at Philadelphia.....	27
at Denver.....	41	Dallas.....	20
at Denver.....	13	San Diego.....	30
Denver.....	14	at New England.....	23
Denver.....	19	at Cleveland.....	16
at Denver.....	20	Washington.....	17
at Denver.....	17	Kansas City.....	23
Denver.....	14	at New York Giants.....	9
at Denver.....	16	Houston.....	20
Denver.....	20	at San Diego.....	13
at Denver.....	31	New York Jets.....	24
at Denver.....	36	Seattle.....	20
Denver.....	3	at Oakland.....	9
Denver.....	14	at Kansas City.....	31
at Denver.....	21	Oakland.....	24
Denver.....	25	at Seattle.....	17
310		323	

No. 19 Fred Steinfurt

It didn't take Edgar Kaiser long to swing into action after he bought the Denver Broncos late last winter. Only long enough, in fact, to notice that the figures in the won-loss column didn't add to the totals that the payroll ledger indicated they should.

Kaiser bought a team with one of the highest payrolls in the league, but not one of the highest victory totals, and he decided that general manager Fred Gherke and head coach Red Miller were to blame for the discrepancy. He promptly fired both.

Now the Broncos are run by Dan Reeves, who set an unofficial league record for being a bridesmaid in the coaching derby, before he finally landed the Denver job. Reeves was rumored as a front runner for virtually every head coaching job in the NFL the past three years, and now he'll finally get a chance to prove that all those teams that passed him over were wrong.

Miller felt he had a team that would have made the playoffs in 1980 if it hadn't been for injuries, and perhaps he was right. Regardless, the roster that he left behind was far from the worst in the league . . . on defense, that is.

Offensively, though, the Broncos were pathetic, and that's the chief reason Reeves was selected—to put some muscle in the Bronco attack. That'll take some doing. Denver was 25th in the league on offense last year.

But the Broncos were 15th defensively despite a severe siege of injuries, leaving the team with a "Patchwork Orange" defense.

With the wounded healthy again and ready to do battle, Reeves should have a defense to keep Denver respectable, and give him some time to overhaul the offense.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Craig Morton was to be gone and forgotten by now, and Matt Robinson was to be the man who finally put some punch into the Denver offense. So much for dreaming. Morton replaced the faltering Robinson at mid-season and managed to stage one of the best statistical showings of his career, completing nearly 61 percent of his passes. There was talk of retirement, but he's back for another season at age 38. "I'm glad he's coming back," said Robinson. "He teaches me like the coaches can't teach me. It's a buddy-to-buddy thing and I've learned an awful lot from him." Unless some of the effects of that education appear soon, Robinson will be another in a long line of young quarterbacks who failed to make good in Denver.

If Denver goes with Morton again, it will have a quarterback who's extremely knowledgeable, adept at working the short passing

Coaches: Dan Reeves, Joe Collier, Rod Dowhower, Jerry Frei, Stan Jones, Charlie Lee, Richie McCabe, Fran Polstoat, Bob Zeman.

DENVER BRONCOS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
54	Bishop, Keith	C	6-3	250	2	3/10/57	Baylor
77	Boyd, Greg	DE	6-6	280	4	9/15/53	San Diego State
82	Bracelin, Greg	LB	6-1	218	2	4/19/57	California
82	Brunson, Larry	WR	5-11	180	8	8/11/49	Colorado
64	Bryan, Bill	C	6-2	244	5	6/21/55	Duke
35	Canada, Larry	RB	6-2	226	3	12/16/54	Wisconsin
68	Carler, Robin	DT	6-0	253	7	12/12/52	Miami
79	Chavous, Barney	DE	6-3	245	9	3/22/51	South Carolina State
73	Clark, Kalvin	T	6-3	245	3	1/30/56	Nebraska
85	Elliott, Ron	TE	6-3	227	5	10/3/55	Wisconsin
56	Evans, Larry	LB	6-2	220	6	7/11/53	Mississippi College
43	Foley, Steve	CB	6-2	190	6	6/11/53	Tulane
62	Glassie, Tom	G	6-3	250	6	4/17/54	Virginia
53	Gradeshar, Randy	LB	6-3	231	8	3/14/56	Ball State
31	Harden, Mike	S	6-0	188	2	2/16/58	Michigan
27	Harvey, Maurice	S	5-10	190	3	1/14/56	Ball State
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	250	8	9/12/50	Brigham Young
65	Hyde, Glenn	T	6-3	252	6	3/14/51	Pittsburgh
57	Jackson, Tom	LB	5-11	228	9	4/4/51	Louisville
30	Jensen, Jim	RB	6-3	230	5	11/28/53	Iowa
75	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	280	2	3/25/58	Utah State
32	Keyworth, Jon	RB	6-3	230	6	12/15/50	Colorado
16	Knappe, Jeff	QB	6-2	200	2	8/27/56	Northern Colorado
22	Kyle, Aaron	CB	5-11	185	6	4/6/54	Wyoming

67	Land, Melvin	LB	6-3	240	3	11/30/55	Michigan State
72	Lattimer, Don	DT	6-2	253	4	3/1/55	Miami
76	Long, Ken	T	6-4	280	2	7/24/53	Purdue
41	Lyle, Rob	RB	6-1	195	5	11/12/54	Michigan
86	Manor, Brian	DE	6-4	248	5	8/10/52	Arkansas
55	Merrill, Mark	LB	6-4	240	3	5/5/55	Minnesota
71	Minor, Claude	T	6-4	275	8	4/21/51	San Diego State
86	Moorehead, Emory	WR	6-2	210	5	3/22/54	Colorado
7	Morton, Craig	QB	6-4	211	17	2/5/43	California
25	Moses, Haven	WR	6-2	201	14	7/27/46	San Diego State
58	Nairne, Rob	LB	6-4	220	5	3/24/54	Oregon State
88	Odums, Riley	TE	6-4	230	10	3/1/50	Houston
46	Preston, Dave	RB	5-11	185	4	5/29/55	Bowling Green
11	Prestridge, Luke	P	6-4	235	3	9/17/56	Baylor
50	Rizzo, Joe	LB	6-1	222	6	12/17/50	Merchant Marine Academy
17	Robinson, Matt	QB	6-2	196	5	6/28/55	Georgia
80	Rucker, Conrad	TE	6-3	245	4	11/15/55	Southern
63	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	212	3	5/18/57	William & Mary
83	Short, Laval	DT	6-2	250	2	9/29/58	Colorado
83	Smith, John	WR	6-0	175	2	1/27/56	Tennessee State
45	Smith, Perry	CB	6-1	190	9	3/29/51	Colorado State
19	Steinfurt, Fred	K	5-11	180	6	3/11/52	Boston College
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	255	3	11/22/53	Texas
51	Swenson, Bob	LB	6-3	225	5	7/1/53	California
61	Thompson, Arland	G	6-3	265	2	9/18/57	Baylor
38	Thompson, Bill	S	6-1	197	13	10/10/48	Maryland State
80	Upchurch, Rick	WR	5-10	176	7	5/20/52	Minnesota
3	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	192	81	5/28/57	Temple
87	Wright, James	TE	6-3	240	3	9/1/58	Texas Christian
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-2	200	7	1/31/53	San Jose State

game, and unlikely to get the club beat with an abundance of stupid mistakes. But he also is unlikely to make the Broncos a big winner again. A team simply does not build around a 38-year old quarterback.

Running backs—If neither the draft nor a late trade can add strength here, Jim Jensen will find himself a lonely man. Otis Armstrong was forced into retirement with a back ailment, leaving Jensen as the only returning Bronco runner who was effective in 1980. He averaged 4.7 yards per carry; no one else besides Armstrong managed 4.0. Now in his sixth year, Jensen may be ready to fulfill the promise expected when Dallas made him a second-round draft choice. He's no break-away threat, but he could be a Mark van Eeghen-type plugger who gets consistent yardage. There are others with a similar style on the Bronco roster—Dave Preston, Rob Lytle, Jon Keyworth, and Larry Canada. Unless Rick Parros, a fourth-round draft choice who spent his rookie year on injured reserve, can make the long run, the Broncos will have to help themselves via the draft or trade, or do without.

Receivers—Both tight end Riley Odums and wide receiver Haven Moses showed signs of slowing down last season, and the Broncos may be in trouble here. Both however, are capable of substituting savvy for some of the immense physical skills they had earlier, and might still have good production for a year or two. Rick Upchurch, who plays the other wide receiver spot, still is Denver's best and most dangerous deep threat. The front line players here don't rank with the best in the league, and the experienced depth is negligible.

Offensive line—Denver has invested heavily, both in terms of cash and high draft picks, to put this unit together. Four of the five starters were drafted within the first four rounds, and if Kelvin Clark displaces Dave Studdard at left tackle, it will be five out of five. Clark was a first round pick in 1979. The other starters are left guard Tom Glassic, a first round pick; center Bill Bryan, a fourth rounder; right guard Paul Howard, a third rounder; and right tackle Claudie Minor, another third rounder. Minor, Bryan, and Glassic were among the league's seven highest paid offensive linemen last year. Unfortunately, their performance hasn't yet matched their paychecks. Most of them are young, and their performances still wanting, but the unit could yet become an awesome force. If any of them slip, the Broncos have second-year man Keith Bishop, a sixth-round pick from Baylor who served time at both guard and center last year and probably was the league's best rookie blocker west of Cincinnati's Anthony Munoz.



No. 53 Randy Gradisher

DEFENSE

Line—Each of them stands 6'6"; one of them weighs 280 and the other 260. Aim them at the passer, tell them to go on the snap of the ball and what do you have? Denver's best pass rush in a long, long time. One of them is Rulon Jones, who did a better job of rushing the passer than any other rookie in the league last year, when he and Greg Boyd, a New England discard, combined for 20 sacks while giving the Broncos a badly needed pass rush. Both, however, still have much to learn about the business of playing defensive end. Boyd, especially, must prove he can do more than rush the quarterback.

Until Boyd and Jones establish themselves fully, the Denver starters will continue to be

that pair of veterans, Barney Chavous and Brison Manor. Neither provides many fireworks, but they both do dependable work.

The man in the middle of the 3-4 defense is Don Latimer, Denver's top draft choice in 1978. He's a good one, and has supplanted Rubin Carter, whose name was mentioned in many trade rumors at press time as bait to acquire needed help at running back or receiver positions.

Linebackers—With a salary reported at \$271,250, Randy Gradisher was the league's highest-paid defensive player in 1980. Perhaps he was worth it. He was the heart of Denver's defense for several years, and had another superlative season last year despite being nagged with injuries. Other Denver linebackers weren't as lucky—they were merely nagged with injuries, period. Joe Rizzo and Bob Swenson, both of whom had done excellent work in previous seasons, sat out the entire year with injury. Larry Evans and Rob Nairne filled in and played well, but not as well. If Rizzo and Swenson are sound, either Evans or Nairne may be successful in pushing Tom Jackson, the fourth starter, out of a job. Jackson is flashy, but sometimes victimized.

Secondary—Free safety Bernard Jackson lost his job via injury last year, and the Broncos found they liked the new arrangement well enough to keep it for 1981, with Louie Wright and Aaron Kyle on the corners, 13-year veteran Bill Thompson at strong safety and ex-corner Steve Foley at free safety. If 13 proves an unlucky number for Thompson, second-year man Mike Harden, who showed promise as a rookie, might take over. A variety of combinations is possible here, but one thing is sure—Wright is still the equal of any in the league.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Maybe it's something in the air at the Mile-High City. Fred Steinfert, unable to hold a job previously, suddenly became a superstar after moving to Denver. He was deadly from a distance, hitting 5 of 8 field goal tries beyond 50 yards, including 3 of 5 beyond 55. His longest was a 57-yarder. He wasn't bad from close range, either, hitting a combined total of 26 field goals in 34 tries.

Punter Luke Prestridge was another benefit from the Denver air, averaging a conference-leading 43.9 yards per punt. Denver's return men round out an overall brilliant lineup on special teams, with Rick Upchurch always ranking as one of the most dangerous punt returners around, and Kansas City discard Larry Brunson posting a 23.1 yard average on kickoffs, the third-best figure in the AFC last season.



THE DRAFT

After being touted for the Heisman Trophy all season, Mark Herrmann was snubbed by the pro scouts through the first three rounds of the draft, as they cited his lack of a powerful arm and his terribly slow set-up. But the set-up can be taught and there have been highly successful QBs who lacked super fastballs. If Herrmann proves to be one of those, the 1981 Denver draft will be remembered as a great one. First round choice Dennis Smith is sure to become an excellent free safety, and second round tight end, Clay Brown will be a good one, outstanding if he adds blocking to his repertoire.

Tackle/guard Ken Langer, picked in the fifth round, could be another good choice if he performs as well as his physical ability promises. Sixth rounder Alvin Lewis, a skinny 175-pound running back, shouldn't be able to get yardage, but somehow does.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Dennis Smith	15	DB	Southern California
2.	Clay Brown	42	TE	Brigham Young
3.	(Choice forfeited)			
4.	Mark Herrmann	98	QB	Purdue
5.	Ken Langer	125	OT	Florida State
6.	Alvin Lewis	151	RB	Colorado State
7.	Steve Busick	181	LB	Southern California
8.	(Choice to New York Giants)			
9.	Nesty Olsen	204	DE	Washington
10.	(Choice to St. Louis)			
11.	Pat Walker	200	WR	Miami (FL)
12.	John Hankard	317	LB	Notre Dame
12.	(From Detroit)			
	Mandel Robinson	321	RB	Wyoming

Seattle SEAHAWKS

1980 RESULTS: WON 4 LOST 12

at Seattle.....	13	San Diego.....	34
Seattle.....	17	at Kansas City.....	16
at Seattle.....	31	New England.....	37
Seattle.....	14	at Washington.....	0
Seattle.....	26	at Houston.....	7
at Seattle.....	3	Cleveland.....	27
Seattle.....	27	at New York Jets.....	17
Seattle.....	14	at Oakland.....	33
at Seattle.....	20	Philadelphia.....	27
at Seattle.....	30	Kansas City.....	31
at Seattle.....	17	Oakland.....	19
Seattle.....	20	at Denver.....	36
Seattle.....	7	at Dallas.....	51
at Seattle.....	21	New York Giants.....	27
Seattle.....	14	at San Diego.....	21
at Seattle.....	17	Denver.....	25
291		408	



There are differing opinions about Seattle head coach Jack Patera.

"When Patera confronts some 30 newsmen after a Seahawk home game," wrote one Seattle newspaperman, "he glowers as though facing a team of jackasses and waits with thinly disguised ill humor for the first one to start braying."

Undoubtedly, there are men who would be more pleasant for the Seattle media to deal with, but the writers will just have to put up with Patera. The head coach has admirers where it matters most: in the Seahawk front office, and the brass thinks so highly of Patera that it gave him a five-year contract at the end of the 1980 season.

"We're on the right track," said general manager John Thompson. Obviously, he wasn't referring to the team's record. A nine game winner each of the two previous years,

Seattle fell to 4-12 last season. But Thompson was convinced he saw enough improvement in enough areas to warrant keeping Patera on the payroll.

Patera was inclined to agree with that. "The worst thing we can do now is panic and start changing our philosophy," he said. "I believe we have a solid foundation." He may be right. The Seahawks have won 29 games, the highest five-year win total ever by an expansion team, and although there have been some bad blunders on draft day, there are still enough high picks left on the roster that could form a sound nucleus.

The Seahawks' biggest problems (of many) were a puny offensive line and a punching bag defense that gave up 408 points last year. Surprisingly, Seattle was a very respectable 13th in yardage yielded, but the young Seahawks still must prove they can stop the oppo-

sition when it's important. The winning points in five of the 1980 losses came in the final three minutes of the game.

Oh, and one other problem, a very embarrassing problem. The Seahawks were 0-8 at home. Maybe that helps account for some of Patera's surliness with the hometown pen and pencil corps who show up to interrogate him.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—It was six years ago that they got this left-handed kid from the bottom of the alphabet, handed him a football and told him to heave it as far as he could as often as he could. Jim Zorn hasn't stopped yet. In his first five seasons he has passed for nearly 15,000 yards, nearly a third of that total going to his favorite receiver, Steve Largent. Nearly everybody knows the play will go from Zorn to Largent in crucial situations, but stopping it

Coaches: Jack Patera, Jack Christiansen, Andy MacDonald, Jim Mora, Howard Mudd, Jerry Rhone, Jackie Simpson, Rusty Tillman.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
12	Adkins, Sam	QB	6-2	214	5	5/21/55	Wichita State
63	Anderson, Fred	DE	6-4	235	3	10/30/54	Prairie View
76	August, Steve	T	6-5	254	5	9/4/54	Tulsa
58	Beeson, Terry	LB	6-3	235	5	9/19/55	Kansas
82	Bell, Mark	TE	6-4	235	3	8/30/57	Colorado State
69	Boyd, Dennis	T	6-6	255	4	1/5/55	Oregon State
36	Brinson, Larry	RB	6-0	214	5	6/6/54	Florida
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-2	190	7	1/16/53	Michigan
72	Bullard, Louis	T	6-6	265	4	5/6/56	Jackson State
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	225	4	5/16/58	Memphis State
67	Cooke, Bill	DT	6-5	250	7	2/26/51	Massachusetts
57	Cronan, Pete	LB	6-2	238	4	1/13/55	Boston College
62	Dion, Terry	DE	6-6	254	2	11/22/57	Oregon
33	Ducornink, Dan	RB	6-3	210	4	2/1/56	Washington State
25	Dufek, Don	S	6-0	195	5	4/28/54	Michigan
64	Essink, Ron	T	6-6	246	2	7/30/58	Grand Valley State
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	247	2	1/21/57	Texas A&M
86	Green, Jessie	WR	6-3	194	3	2/21/54	Tulsa
77	Gregory, Bill	DE	6-5	260	11	12/14/49	Wisconsin
75	Hardy, Robert	DT	6-2	250	3	7/3/56	Jackson State
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	200	4	6/13/56	Arizona State
1	Herrera, Efran	K	5-9	190	7	7/30/51	UCLA

73	Hines, Andre	T	6-6	275	2	2/28/58	Stanford
24	Hunter, Al	FB	5-11	195	5	2/21/55	Notre Dame
55	Jackson, Michael	LB	6-1	220	3	7/15/57	Washington
43	Jodat, Jim	FB	5-11	213	5	3/3/54	Carthage
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-10	175	4	5/3/55	Oregon State
17	Krieg, Dave	DB	6-1	185	2	10/20/58	Milton, Wis.
54	Kuehn, Art	C	6-3	255	6	2/21/53	UCLA
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	6	9/28/54	Tulsa
41	Lewis, Will	CB	5-9	185	2	1/16/58	Millersville State
61	Lynch, Tom	G	6-5	280	5	5/24/55	Boston College
84	McCullum, Sam	WR	6-2	190	8	11/30/52	Montana State
30	McCutcheon, Lawrence	RB	6-1	205	10	6/2/50	Colorado State
21	Minor, Vic	S	6-0	198	2	11/28/58	Northeast Louisiana
32	Moore, Jeff	RB	6-0	195	3	8/20/56	Jackson State
16	Myer, Steve	DB	6-2	200	5	7/17/54	New Mexico
78	Newton, Bob	G	6-5	260	11	8/16/49	Nebraska
52	Norman, Joe	LB	6-1	220	3	10/15/56	Indiana
88	Peets, Brian	TE	6-4	225	3	11/15/56	Pacific
83	Rathie, Steve	WR	6-2	195	6	6/2/54	Georgia Tech
59	Rennaker, Terry	LB	6-6	225	2	5/1/58	Stanford
81	Sawyer, John	TE	6-2	230	6	7/26/53	Southern Mississippi
70	Sevy, Jeff	T	6-5	280	7	10/24/52	California
42	Simpson, Keith	S	6-1	195	4	3/9/56	Memphis State
47	Smith, Sherman	RB	6-4	225	6	11/1/54	Miami, Ohio
74	Tulasosopo, Manu	DT	6-3	252	3	8/30/57	UCLA
56	Walker, Tim	LB	6-1	230	2	5/12/58	Savannah State
34	Walsh, Jim	FB	5-11	220	2	12/17/56	San Jose State
18	Weaver, Herman	P	6-4	210	12	11/17/48	Tennessee
51	Yarno, John	C	6-5	251	5	12/17/54	Idaho
10	Zorn, Jim	DB	6-2	200	6	5/10/53	Cal Poly-Pomona

has been difficult. "People are going everywhere," says Zorn of the Seattle offense. It's controlled chaos. I love it." It's always dazzling and it's sometimes effective, but the Seattle offense isn't always productive. That isn't the fault of the quarterback, though. He's working with an offense that has some severe weaknesses. If the Seahawks manage to surround him with a solid team before he qualifies for Social Security payments, Zorn may prove to be one of the most capable winners in the league. His relief man, Sam Adkins, gives meaning to the expression "seldom-used." He has only 26 pass attempts in the last four years.

Running backs—This is a snakebitten position. David Sims scored 15 touchdowns as a Seahawk running back in 1978, then was forced to retire because of a serious neck injury. Sherman Smith scored 15 Seattle touchdowns in 1979, then couldn't play in 1980 because of a knee injury. One of the real quality runners in the league before he was injured, Smith is back to assume the workhorse load he formerly carried. If he's as effective as he once was, the Seahawks will be relieved of one of their more glaring weaknesses. Ex-Ram Jim Jodat had a respectable 4.1 yard rushing average last year, but his longest of 155 carries was for 26 yards, and Seattle needs Smith's return to have a serious breakaway threat. His four-year totals include a 4.5 yard rushing average and 23 touchdowns. He and fullback Jodat could pair up nicely to give the Seahawks their most potent ground attack in three years. Dan Doornink worked regularly in 1980 but hasn't been able to average more than 3.4 yards per carry and is likely to be relegated to reserve duty. Others hopeful of roster spots are Jeff Moore and Al Hunter.

Receivers—Steve Largent and Sam McCullum are an excellent pair of wide receivers, and they could be even better if the Seahawks could land a top-quality tight end either through trade or via the draft. Largent, although too small and too slow for this sort of work, has been good for more than 1000 yards each of the past three seasons. He's superb at squirming into the open spots of a zone defense. McCullum, who has more size and speed, has improved his catch totals from 9 to 37 to 46 to 62 during the past four years. The incumbent tight end is John Sawyer, a steady workman who caught 36 passes last year. Steve Raible heads an undistinguished reserve receiver corps.

Offensive Line—The fact that QB Zorn got sacked 44 times and that the ground attack was 23rd in the league are reflections on the work done by the offensive line. Center John



Yarno is one of the best at his position, and left guard Tom Lynch can be a fixture if his contract difficulties are straightened out. A pair of tackles who were expected to be outstanding—Steve August (1977 first round pick) and Andre Hines (1980 second round)—haven't been. August, a regular since 1978, was benched late last year in favor of 10th round rookie pick Ron Essink. This is an area where the Seahawks need help desperately.

DEFENSE

Line—The Seahawks don't always guess wrong on draft day. They seem to have gotten a good pass rusher, something they badly needed, in the 1980 draft when they landed Jacob Green. He was the team leader with six sacks and was learning important new lessons every week before being injured in mid-November. He and tackle Manu Tuiaosopo, picked in the second round a year earlier, will

be good men around whom to build a defensive line of the future. Young Robert Hardy and old Bill Gregory were the starters at the other two defensive line spots last year. Hardy is expected to continue to show improvement; Gregory isn't, and may have difficulty surviving challenges for his job by second-year man Terry Dion or ex-Steeler Fred Anderson.

Linebackers—The Seahawks improved their defense in all areas in 1980, but perhaps nowhere was the change as evident as in the linebacker corps. Michael Jackson is quickly becoming an outside linebacker to whom the opposition must give added attention. Terry Beeson, a bulky 240-pounder, has been a fixture in the middle since his rookie season of 1977. And Keith Butler, like Beeson and Jackson a second round draft pick, does good work on the other side. It's still a young unit, but unless it's broken up by injury, has all the earmarks of developing into one of the better ones in the league. The best of the reserves is Joe Norman, yet another second-round draft pick, who hasn't had much playing time in his first two seasons.

Secondary—The "Help Wanted" sign stays lit. Keith Simpson gets the job done at strong safety and rookie Kenny Easley should be terrific at free safety. Tremendously talented, he was the fourth player taken in the draft. But better work is needed on the corners, where neither Dave Brown nor Kerry Justin has the great speed needed to be outstanding at the position. Brown, a seventh-year man who annually leads the team in interceptions (six last year), gets by on experience. Justin, a fourth-year man, is a bit undersized at 5'11", 175 pounds. There could be a job opening or two for an ambitious rookie.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Nobody had heard of Will Lewis when he arrived in Seattle, but the rookie free agent from Millersville (PA) State became a popular Seahawk quickly. The short (5'9") scatback became the best kick returner in the team's short history, averaging 23.4 yards on kick returns and 8.5 yards on punt returns.

There's need for improvement elsewhere. The Seahawks were the worst team in the league at covering punts last year, due partially to the fact that although Herman (Thunderfoot) Weaver gets decent distance, he doesn't always keep the ball up very long. Placekicker Efen Herrera, who had hit on six of seven tries between 40 and 49 yards the year before, suffered a severe drop in long-range effectiveness. He was still accurate from less than 40 yards (15 of 16), but hit only five of 15 beyond that point.

THE DRAFT

The Seahawks of '80 had greater weaknesses than free safety, but when their turn, the fourth pick in the first round of the draft, came up, they spent that pick on Kenny Easley, the wondrously gifted free safety from UCLA. He's expected to be spectacular from opening day.

Later additions were less dramatic, but some of them should be effective in bolstering weaknesses. David Hughes, a fine blocker and tough power runner, was picked in the second round for the purpose of filling the fullback slot and providing some blocking for Sherman Smith. Others called on for blocking purposes are Bill Dugan, a 280-pound tackle taken from Penn State on the third round, and guard Edwin Bailey, a fifth-rounder from South Carolina State. Bailey could prove a very pleasant surprise in a year or so.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Ken Easley	4	DB	UCLA
2	David Hughes	31	RB	Boise State
3	Bill Dugan	58	OT	Penn State
4	Scott Phillips	87	WR	Brigham Young
5	Edwin Bailey	114	OG	South Carolina State
6	Steve Durham	140	DE	Clemson
7	Ron Johnson	170	WR	Cal State-Los Angeles
7	(From Houston)			
	Brad Scoville	186	TE	Penn State
8	Eric Lano	196	RB	Brigham Young
9	Jim Stone	223	RB	Notre Dame
9	(From Minnesota)			
	Jim Whalley	238	WR	Washington State
10	Ken Dawson	252	RB	Savannah State
11	Lance Diander	279	RB	Colorado
12	Jeff Bednarak	306	DT	Pacific



Cleveland Browns

No. 85 Dave Logan

1980 RESULTS: WON 11 LOST 5

Cleveland.....	17	at New England.....	34
at Cleveland.....	7	Houston.....	16
at Cleveland.....	20	Kansas City.....	13
Cleveland.....	34	at Tampa Bay.....	27
at Cleveland.....	16	Denver.....	19
Cleveland.....	27	at Seattle.....	3
at Cleveland.....	26	Green Bay.....	21
at Cleveland.....	27	Pittsburgh.....	26
at Cleveland.....	27	Chicago.....	21
Cleveland.....	28	at Baltimore.....	27
Cleveland.....	13	at Pittsburgh.....	16
at Cleveland.....	31	Cincinnati.....	7
Cleveland.....	17	at Houston.....	14
at Cleveland.....	17	New York Jets.....	14
Cleveland.....	23	at Minnesota.....	28
Cleveland.....	27	at Cincinnati.....	24
	357		310

"We're not exceptionally talented," declares Brian Sipe, but we're a team that plays a little above its head most of the time."

Head coach Sam Rutigliano has a way of extracting the absolute maximum from each player, and somehow the Browns pull out victory after victory by the most narrow of margins. Of their 11 victories in 1980, five were by the margin of a field goal or less. Only two were by more than seven points.

The Browns are a team of extremes. They're very strong in some areas, extremely weak in others. One important factor in their favor: they respond to Sipe's leadership late in

a game when the result is in doubt.

"If we're down by less than two scores with half the fourth quarter left," says Sipe, "we're confident we can do it." And frequently they do, primarily because of Sipe, who won league MVP honors last year. "He's totally dependable in stress situations," says Rutigliano of his quarterback. "He's like a duck on water. On the surface he looks unflappable, but if you look under water, you see his feet moving a mile a minute. He has the same kind of mental toughness that Johnny Unitas, Bart Starr, and Otto Graham had."

Sipe was the NFL's leading passer in 1980, and he's the best thing the Browns have in

their favor. But whether it will be enough to outweigh the team's weaknesses as in the past and keep the Browns atop the AFC Central Division is uncertain.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—"Brian Sipe is the kind of quarterback who needs to be surrounded by Cadillacs," says Rutigliano. "He can't throw a football through a brick wall. But his arm is good enough and he truly has tremendous concentration."

"The thing that separates quarterbacks is not the arm," says Sipe. "It's intuition and instinct, which can't be measured."

Coaches: Sam Rutigliano, Dave Adolph, Len Fontes, Jim Garrett, Paul Hackett, Rod Humenuik, Rich Kotite, John Petercusk, Marty Schottenheimer.

CLEVELAND BROWNS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
80	Adams, Willis	WR	6-2	194	3	8/22/56	Houston
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	250	11	4/3/49	Yankton
52	Ambrose, Dick	LB	6-0	228	7	1/17/53	Virginia
24	Beamon, Autry	S	6-1	190	7	11/12/53	East Texas State
28	Bolton, Ron	CB	6-2	170	10	4/16/50	Norfolk State
91	Bradley, Henry	DT	6-2	260	3	9/4/53	Alcorn State
49	Burrell, Clinton	CB	6-1	192	3	9/4/56	Louisiana State
12	Cockroft, Don	K	6-1	195	14	2/6/45	Adams State
53	Cowher, Bill	LB	6-3	225	2	5/8/57	North Carolina State
93	Crews, Ron	DT	6-3	256	2	10/9/56	Nevada-Las Vegas
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2	193	9	8/28/50	Michigan
21	Davis, Oliver	CB	6-1	205	5	8/29/54	Tennessee State
64	De Lamelleure, Joe	G	6-3	245	9	3/16/51	Michigan State
54	De Leone, Tom	C	6-2	248	10	8/13/50	Ohio State
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	252	11	2/12/49	Illinois
6	Evaris, Johnny	P-QB	6-2	197	4	2/18/56	North Carolina State
83	Feacher, Ricky	WR	5-10	174	6	2/11/54	Mississippi Valley
20	Flint, Judson	CB	6-0	201	2	1/26/57	Memphis State
94	Franks, Elvis	DE	6-4	238	2	7/9/57	Morgan State
50	Goode, Don	LB	6-2	231	8	6/21/51	Kansas
59	Hall, Charlie	LB	6-3	235	11	12/2/48	Houston

26	Hall, Dino	RB	5-7	165	3	12/6/55	Glassboro State
78	Hardaway, Milton	T	6-9	316	2	12/12/54	Oklahoma State
90	Harris, Marshall	DE	6-6	261	2	12/6/55	Texas Christian
35	Hill, Calvin	RB	6-4	227	12	1/2/47	Yale
68	Jackson, Robert E.	G	6-5	260	7	4/1/53	Duke
56	Jackson, Robert L.	LB	6-1	230	4	8/7/54	Texas A&M
10	Jacobs, Dave	K	5-7	151	2	7/15/57	Syracuse
48	Johnson, Lawrence	LB	5-11	204	2	9/11/57	Wisconsin
85	Logan, Dave	WR	6-4	216	6	2/2/54	Colorado
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	230	4	3/15/56	Southern California
16	McDonald, Paul	QB	6-2	185	2	2/23/58	Southern California
30	Miller, Cleo	RB	5-11	214	8	9/5/51	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
71	Miller, Matt	T	6-6	270	2	7/30/56	Colorado
42	Miller, Terry	RB	5-10	196	4	1/7/56	Oklahoma State
55	Mohring, John	LB	6-3	230	2	11/14/56	C. W. Post
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	4	3/16/58	Alabama
84	Oden, Mc Donald	TE	6-4	228	2	3/28/58	Tennessee State
58	Odom, Clifton	LB	6-2	220	2	8/15/58	Texas-Arlington
69	Patten, Joel	T	6-6	240	2	2/7/58	Duke
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB	5-10	190	9	8/18/51	Oklahoma
43	Pruitt, Mike	FB	6-0	225	6	4/3/54	Purdue
63	Risien, Cody	T	6-7	255	3	3/22/57	Texas A&M
33	Rucker, Reggie	WR	6-2	190	12	9/21/47	Boston University
22	Scott, Clarence	S	6-0	190	11	4/9/49	Kansas State
65	Sheppard, Henry	G-T	6-6	263	6	11/12/52	Southern Methodist
72	Sherk, Jerry	DT	6-4	250	11	7/7/48	Oklahoma State
17	Sipe, Brian	QB	6-1	195	8	8/8/49	San Diego State
79	Sullivan, Gerry	C-T	6-4	250	8	1/15/52	Illinois
87	Weathers, Curtis	TE	6-5	220	3	9/16/56	Mississippi
25	White, Charles	RB	5-10	183	2	1/22/58	Southern California
89	Wright, Keith	WR-KR	5-9	175	4	1/30/56	Memphis State

By standards that can be measured and defined, Sipe was a failure according to pro scouts. They left him unclaimed until the 330th pick in the 1972 draft. So much for the infallibility of scouts.

He was strictly a Brian-come-lately with the Browns, too, developing slowly, but there were unusual obstacles thrown in his way. "In my early years," he says, "I played under five different offensive coordinators. I felt like an Indianapolis driver stuck on a dirt road."

He's definitely in the fast lane now, throwing 30 touchdown passes and only 14 interceptions last year while completing 61 percent of his passes for 4100 yards. His passing ability alone accounted for the Browns' rank as the fifth best offensive team in the league last year. Cleveland was a miserable 26th in rushing yards.

He has been remarkably sturdy, but in case the Browns need to turn to a substitute, they'll call on one of two totally untested bench warmers, southpaw Paul McDonald or right-hander Johnny Evans. With four quarterbacks in camp last year, promising Mark Miller drew the short straw because of Evans' punting ability and McDonald's prestigious college reputation. Miller may turn out to be a surprise at Green Bay.

Running backs—Only two other teams had less success gaining yardage on the ground, despite the fact that fullback Mike Pruitt gained more than 1000 yards for the second consecutive year. The problem: there's nobody but Mike Pruitt.

The other Pruitt (Greg) has yet to regain the form that made him great in the mid-'70s. He suffered a knee injury in 1979 and came back last season, but was ineffective (2.9 yards per carry). Also disappointing was the Browns' other 5'9" running back, first round draft choice Charles White, who averaged only 3.2 yards per carry and couldn't hold a starting job in his rookie year after being a Heisman Trophy winner.

With Sipe completing 337 passes last season, the running backs were asked to do a great deal of catching, and Mike Pruitt was the team leader with 63 receptions for an average of 7.5 yards. Greg Pruitt caught 50 for an average of 8.9 yards and graybeard Calvin Hill was the team's touchdown leader (6).

A late addition is Terry Miller, a 1978 sensation as a Buffalo rookie, but unproductive since then.

Receivers—"Any one of us could be featured," says wide receiver Reggie Rucker, "but that's not the way our offense works, which is why it's so effective."

Sipe plays no favorites among the receivers.



No. 43 Mike Pruitt

ers. Rucker had 52 catches last year, while tight end Ozzie Newsome and wide receiver Dave Logan had 51 apiece. Of those three, Logan is the most dangerous deep threat. The trio combined for 22 touchdown catches in 1979, but got only half of that last season, an indication of the Browns' growing dependence on the "dump and run" offense involving the running backs.

The wide receiver reserves are Willis Adams and Ricky Feacher, neither of whom gets much playing time.

Offensive line—Here lies the Browns' not-so-secret weapon. They kept Sipe on his feet, permitting him to be sacked only 23 times on nearly 600 pass play calls. Their work did not go unnoticed, as three of them—center Tom DeLeone, guard Joe DeLamielleure, and tackle Doug Dieken were invited to showcase their talents in the Pro Bowl. DeLeone has been a top center for years, but recognition has been late in coming for Dieken, who has done good work at left tackle for the Browns for nearly a decade. DeLamielleure, a perennial All-Pro, was a newcomer to Cleveland after declaring he'd rather retire than play another season for the coaching staff in Buffalo.

Robert E. Jackson (not to be confused with linebacker Robert L. Jackson) underwent repairs on his knee in the off-season and should be ready to reclaim his left guard spot, leaving Henry Sheppard, Cody Risien, and Gerry Sullivan to fight it out for the other tackle spot. Any of them can be figured on for a competent job.

DEFENSE

Line—Marshall Harris was a commercial artist in 1979, the same year that Henry Bradley was a truck driver and Elvis Franks was a senior at Morgan State College. A year later, they were the defensive line for the Cleveland Browns. Not a very good one, but

nevertheless a defensive line. Franks played only occasionally, coming in to relieve 11-year veteran Lyle Alzado. The Browns need Alzado in the line-up as much as possible because he's the only lineman they have with any idea of how to rush a passer. He had nine sacks last year; no other Brown lineman had more than three. Unable to stop the run in 1979, the Browns reassessed their priorities and became highly effective at stopping running plays. But in turn they sacrificed a pass rush, accounting for the fact that they gave up more air yardage than anybody else in the league. One of the things that hurt was second-round draft choice Cleveland Crosby's inability to show anything, but drafting mistakes are not unusual for Cleveland.

Linebackers—One mistake the Browns didn't make at draft time was in 1977, when they chose Robert L. Jackson from Texas A&M on the first round. "He's the finest defensive prospect I've seen here in 15 years," says club owner Art Modell. Jackson has come back nicely from a terrible knee injury suffered while in rookie training camp. Along with Clay Matthews, he gives the Browns two excellent linebackers. Matthews, a first-rounder from 1978, has progressed well, and Dick Ambrose has been a standout in the middle for several seasons, giving the Browns three excellent performers. The fourth spot probably will go to Charlie Hall, who'll have to withstand challenges from both John Mohring and Don Goode.

Secondary—They could open up an old folks home back here unless they choose to make several changes with newcomers, which is quite possible. The Browns were 28th in pass defense last year, and the guys in the secondary aren't likely to improve this season. Safety Clarence Scott is in his 11th year, cornerback Ron Bolton is a 10-year man, free safety Thom Darden is in his ninth year. The only kid is right corner Clinton Burrell, who made impressive progress last year. Oliver Davis, another youngster, may get considerably more playing time this season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Nobody was more inept at returning punts last year than the Browns, who averaged only 4.9 yards per try. Veteran placekicker Don Cockroft could hit on only one field goal of more than 42 yards. Punter Johnny Evans averaged only 38.3 yards, making him next-to-last in the league. And the team average on kickoff returns was only 20.8 yards, less than one yard over what they would have gotten if they had let every kickoff fall dead in the end zone.



THE DRAFT

The Browns' most desperate need was for a cornerback, and they seem to have gotten a dandy in Hanford Dixon, a first round pick from Southern Mississippi. He has excellent speed, quickness, toughness, and a special knack for one-on-one coverage. He won't solve all of Cleveland's problems, but he is likely to be the team's best defensive back in his rookie season alone. The Browns didn't have second or third round picks, and used their fourth round selection for Mike Robinson, a defensive end with tremendous ability but a troublesome reputation that prompted other teams to pass on him. If he plays to his ability, he could be a real find. Fifth-rounder Steve Cox, a combination punter and kickoff man from Arkansas, could remedy some of the glaring special teams problems.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Hanford Dixon	22	DB	Southern Methodist
2	(Choice to Buffalo)			
3	(Choice to Kansas City)			
4	(From Washington)			
4	Mike Robinson	92	DE	Arizona
5	(Choice to San Diego)			
5	Steve Cox	134	PK	Arkansas
6	Ron Simmons	160	DT	Florida State
7	Ed Johnson	167	LB	Louisville
8	(Choice to New York Jets)			
9	Randy Schuessler	244	OG	Nebraska
10	(From New England)			
10	Allan Kennedy	267	OT	Washington State
10	Dean Prater	271	DE	Oklahoma State
11	Larry Friday	298	DB	Mississippi State
12	Kevie Wright	325	DT	Oregon

Houston OILERS

1980 SEASON RESULTS: WON 11 LOST 5

Houston.....	17	at Pittsburgh.....	31
Houston.....	16	at Cleveland.....	7
at Houston.....	21	Baltimore.....	16
Houston.....	13	at Cincinnati.....	10
at Houston.....	7	Seattle.....	26
Houston.....	20	at Kansas City.....	21
at Houston.....	20	Tampa Bay.....	14
at Houston.....	23	Cincinnati.....	3
Houston.....	20	at Denver.....	16
at Houston.....	38	New England.....	34
Houston.....	10	at Chicago.....	6
Houston.....	28	at New York Jets (OT)....	31
at Houston.....	14	Cleveland.....	17
at Houston.....	6	Pittsburgh.....	0
Houston.....	22	at Green Bay.....	3
at Houston.....	20	Minnesota.....	16
295		251	

Was Bum Phillips essential to the Oilers' success?

That's a question still being hotly debated, but the man whose opinion counts most, team owner Bud Adams, has cast a "no" vote. Bud has been known to turn thumbs down on head coaches before, employing 11 in 21 years, but he never got rid of one quite like Bum before. Bum's boys had won 32 games in the past three years, responding eagerly to his easy-going style. Whether they play as well for Ed Biles remains to be seen.

Biles, the coordinator of the successful Houston defense the past several years, inherits a team with internal problems, and he'll have to find solutions to troubles he didn't create. There was outrage among players and fans at the dismissal of the highly popular head coach, and Biles could have problems getting maximum effort from his players.

If he can, the Oilers should continue to win, because there's an impressive supply of talent. The Oilers were fourth in the NFL in offensive yards (in 1980, fifth in defense). Only

one team permitted fewer points. But the Oilers were 20th in scoring, and Biles' second-biggest job will be to equate the scoring punch with the team's ability to move the ball.

Biles may also find it wise to stop by the owner's office each day, just to check whether he's slipping. There are Phillips fans who contend that the reason Bum got bounced was that he was becoming too popular among the townfolk, getting too much credit for building the Oilers into a winner. Sounds like a jolly place to work.

Coaches: Ed Biles, Andy Bourgeois, Ray Callahan, Joe Galat, Bob Gambold, Dick Nolan, Elijah Pitts, Dick Selcer, Jim Shofner.

HOUSTON OILERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
39	Armstrong, Adger	RB	6-0	210	2	6/21/57	Texas A&M
75	Baker, Jesse	DE	6-5	265	3	7/10/57	Jacksonville State
86	Barber, Mike	TE	6-3	225	5	6/4/53	Louisiana Tech
64	Bethea, Elvin	DE	6-2	255	14	3/1/46	North Carolina A&T
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	230	9	3/13/51	Purdue
10	Bradshaw, Craig	QB	6-5	215	2	8/14/57	Utah State
52	Brazile, Robert	LB	6-4	238	7	2/7/53	Jackson State
00	Burroughs, Ken	WR	6-3	210	11	7/14/48	Texas Southern
34	Campbell, Earl	RB	5-11	224	4	3/23/55	Texas
26	Carpenter, Rob	RB	6-1	230	5	4/20/55	Miami, Ohio
58	Carter, David	G-C	6-2	245	5	11/27/53	Western Kentucky
87	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	230	8	9/26/51	Notre Dame
88	Caster, Rich	TE	6-5	230	12	11/16/48	Jackson State
42	Clark, Boobie	RB	6-2	245	9	11/8/50	Bethune-Cookman
47	Coleman, Ronnie	RB	5-11	198	8	7/9/51	Alabama A&M
57	Corker, John	LB	6-5	240	2	12/29/58	Oklahoma State
66	Davidson, Greg	C	6-2	250	2	4/24/58	North Texas State
69	Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4	240	9	8/11/51	New Mexico State
77	Fields, Angelo	T	6-6	330	2	9/15/57	Michigan State
60	Fisher, Ed	G	6-3	250	8	5/31/49	Arizona State
16	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7	180	10	7/10/45	No college

74	Gray, Leon	T	6-3	280	9	11/15/51	Jackson State
81	Groth, Jeff	WR	5-10	172	3	7/2/57	Bowling Green
36	Hartwig, Carter	CB	6-0	205	3	2/27/56	Southern California
70	Hayman, Conway	G	6-3	270	7	1/9/49	Delaware
50	Hunt, Daryl	LB	6-3	220	3	11/3/56	Oklahoma
21	Jefferson, Charles	CB	6-0	178	2	5/5/57	McNeese State
84	Johnson, Billy	WR	5-9	170	8	1/21/52	Wetener
71	Kennard, Ken	MG	6-2	245	5	10/4/54	Angelo State
55	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4	250	12	7/7/47	Southern Illinois
14	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	6-5	206	4	10/25/54	Brigham Young
18	Parsley, Cliff	P	6-1	211	5	12/26/54	Oklahoma State
32	Perry, Vernon	S	6-2	211	3	9/22/53	Jackson State
	Posey, David	K	5-11	167	2	4/1/56	Florida
84	Rehner, George	G	6-4	263	4	4/27/55	Penn State
37	Reinhardt, Mike	S	6-2	195	7	5/8/53	Wisconsin-Milwaukee
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	4	6/19/55	Texas Christian
85	Roaches, Carl	WR-KR	5-8	165	2	10/2/53	Texas A&M
62	Schulmacher, John	G	6-3	275	3	9/23/55	Southern California
83	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	192	2	3/20/57	Nebraska
12	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	210	12	12/25/45	Alabama
27	Stemrick, Greg	CB	5-11	185	7	10/25/51	Colorado State
67	Stensrud, Mike	DE	6-4	280	3	2/19/56	Iowa State
53	Stringer, Art	LB	6-2	223	5	1/30/54	Ball State
28	Tatum, Jack	S	5-11	205	11	11/18/48	Ohio State
51	Thompson, Ted	LB	6-1	220	7	1/17/53	Southern Methodist
76	Towns, Morris	G	6-4	275	4	1/10/51	Missouri
59	Washington, Ted	LB	6-2	245	9	2/16/48	Mississippi Valley
33	Wilson, J. C.	CB	6-0	177	4	3/11/56	Pittsburgh
45	Wilson, Tim	RB	6-3	220	5	1/14/54	Maryland
79	Young, Bob	G	6-1	279	16	9/3/42	Howard Payne

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—In the days after he took over as head coach, Biles was questioned about Ken Stabler's future as the Oiler quarterback. "He's still a winner," said Biles, "he's a good quarterback and a guy we want to take this team where we want to go. Nobody on our team feels our downfall was traceable to Stabler."

What downfall? Didn't the Oilers win 11 games last year? Weren't they fourth in offense? What downfall?

The only downfall apparent to most fans was the one taken by Stabler repeatedly in the playoff game against Oakland, when the Raiders blitzed the Oiler quarterback into oblivion and nobody on the Oiler staff was clever enough to figure out how to stop it. That game wasn't one that Stabler will remember fondly. He had some other days that weren't too good, either, throwing only 13 touchdown passes while giving away 28 interceptions. He would be wise to change that ratio before the club owner starts taking notice of him, too.

Stabler has become master of the short passing game using two tight ends, a system Biles is expected to discard. If time has taken its toll on Stabler, the Oilers can start another rebuilding program with fourth-year man Gifford Nielsen at quarterback.

Running backs—"We won't have a simple Earl Campbell-type football team," Biles said at his inauguration. "We want to work all of our talent into the game. We'll have many more formations."

Could it be that Biles is en route to outsmarting himself?

The Oilers have some formidable weapons, but none even close to the equivalent of Campbell, the running machine who has improved his performance each year, totaling more than 5000 yards in just three years as a professional. He got more than 100 yards in 10 games last year and four times exceeded the 200 yard mark. He's in a class by himself. No one else has such stamina (373 carries in 1980), and it will be intriguing to watch whether fewer yards from Earl can possibly mean more wins for the Oilers.

The other starter is Tim Wilson, whose primary role has been to be a bodyguard for Campbell. "You have to know your role," said Wilson. "I'm satisfied with mine."

The bench-sitters are Rob Carpenter, who's a dandy pass catcher, plus Ronnie Coleman and Boobie Clark.

Receivers—Much depends on what Ken Burroughs can do at age 33 after sitting out an entire season because of injuries. If he's fit and able, the receiver corps will be much im-



proved. He has long been one of football's finest deep threats. Houston has a pair of excellent tight ends, and it's unlikely Biles would be interested in breaking up the long-running Stabler-Casper show. So if a trade is made, as expected, Mike Barber might find himself in new surroundings. Dave Casper continues to be one of the better catchers at his position. The other wide receiver slot is handled by Mike Renfro, who specializes in the type of short patterns Stabler likes to throw. Other returning veterans include Billy Johnson and Richard Caster.

Offensive line—"Of all the things I have experienced in pro football," says Eagle linebacker Bill Bergey, "by far the worst is to look up in the middle of a play and find Bob Young coming at me for a one-on-one block. I get this sinking feeling." Young, a guard, is a 280-pound mass of muscle that Phillips picked up from St. Louis, another of the All-Pro linemen Bum had the good sense to go after when other teams discarded them. He got another All-Pro, tackle Leon Gray, from New England earlier. Neither, though, is without a question mark. Young is 39 years old, a bit long in the tooth for this sort of business. And Gray, though only 29, faces a tough comeback from a severe Achilles tendon tear. Check on the status of these two before again declaring the Oiler line one of the best in the NFL.

There's strength at the other positions: center Carl Mauck, guard Ed Fisher and either Angelo Fields, Morris Towns, or Conrad Hay-

man at the other tackle spot. The Oilers have strength and sufficient depth to provide Campbell and Stabler with good protection regardless, but the presence of Young and Gray can make the difference between good and great.

DEFENSE

Line—Hardly a collection of household names, but they do excellent work. Elvin Be-thea is back for his 14th year at one end spot, but he frequently comes out of the lineup in pass rush situations to make way for Jesse Baker, who has a knack for getting to quarterbacks. The other end will be manned by 280-pound Mike Stensrud, who appears headed for stardom. The nose tackle is Ken Kennard, a good one, and the relief man is Andy Dorris, who sometimes has been a starter.

Linebackers—Robert Brazile has the ability to be the best, but doesn't always play that way. Houston's most dependable defensive performer is inside linebacker Gregg Bingham, the team leader in tackles the past eight years. Daryl Hunt has become increasingly effective at the other inside spot, and the Oilers would like to fill the fourth linebacking position with Art Stringer, but he's often hurt, so they go with veteran Ted Washington, whose forte is pass defense. John Corker, a second-year man, appears to be a kid worth watching.

Secondary—The Oilers were fourth in the NFL on pass defense in 1980, a tribute to their outstanding secondary. Greg Sternrick and J. C. Wilson play the corners; Vernon Perry and Mike Reinfeldt are the safeties. Jack Tatum comes in when there's a need for a fifth back. Perhaps the best of them is the least known, Sternrick. He's extremely adept at coverage, but doesn't have the interception totals some of his better-known running mates do. Although the Oiler pass rush is seldom an awe-inspiring force, Houston's total of 26 interceptions was one of the best in the league.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Toni Fritsch continues to be one of the best field goal kickers anywhere, scoring on 19 of 24 efforts last year. His four year total with the Oilers is 66 of 83, a phenomenal percentage of 79.5. "He's so good," Phillips once said, "he sometimes practices missing."

Punter Cliff Parsley isn't quite that good, but he's not bad, averaging 40.7 yards per kick each of the past two seasons. Carl Roaches, a 5' 8" free agent rookie, was occasionally outstanding but usually ordinary in 1980 as a kickoff and punt returner. At that, he still was a significant improvement over what the Oilers had in previous seasons.



THE DRAFT

The Oilers didn't stand much chance for getting top quality help in the draft because previous trades had stripped away picks in the first two rounds, but Houston nevertheless came away with some prospects who have interesting long range possibilities.

Their earliest choice was a third rounder, Morgan State wide receiver Mike Holston. He needs to add weight and strength, and if he gains that with maturity, he could be a fine one. Tackle Nick Eyre, a 270-pounder in the typical Houston mold, and linebacker Delbert Fowler, who had been a stand-up defensive end in college, were taken on the fourth and fifth rounds, and both could develop. Fowler, in particular, has interesting potential for two or three years from now.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	(Choice to Oakland)			
2.	(Choice to Oakland)			
3.	Michael Holston	79	WR	Morgan State
4.	Nick Eyre	106	OT	Brighton Young
5.	Delbert Fowler	133	LB	West Virginia
6.	Bill Kay	159	DB	Purdue
7.	(Choice to Seattle)			
8.	(From Oakland)			
9.	Don Washington	193	DB	Texas A&M
10.	Wally Tulis	217	WR	Troy State
11.	Avon Riley	243	LB	UCLA
12.	Larry Jones	270	RB	Colorado State
13.	Claude Mathews	297	OG	Auburn
14.	Bill Capose	324	PK	Florida State

Pittsburgh STEELERS

1980 RESULTS: WON 9 LOST 7

at Pittsburgh....	31	Houston.....	17
Pittsburgh....	20	at Baltimore.....	17
Pittsburgh....	28	at Cincinnati.....	30
at Pittsburgh....	38	Chicago.....	3
Pittsburgh....	23	at Minnesota.....	17
at Pittsburgh....	16	Cincinnati.....	17
at Pittsburgh....	34	Oakland.....	45
Pittsburgh....	26	at Cleveland.....	27
at Pittsburgh....	22	Green Bay.....	20
Pittsburgh....	24	at Tampa Bay.....	21
at Pittsburgh....	16	Cleveland.....	13
Pittsburgh....	13	at Buffalo.....	28
at Pittsburgh....	23	Miami.....	10
Pittsburgh....	0	at Houston.....	6
at Pittsburgh....	21	Kansas City.....	16
Pittsburgh....	17	at San Diego.....	26
352		313	

No. 88 Lynn Swann

For the first time in a decade, the Pittsburgh Steelers find themselves trying to unseat the AFC Central Division champion. The Steelers are sure to be a major headline story in 1981, either proving that their fall last season was a fluke, or else stepping back among the also-rans.

Pittsburgh and its problems became a pre-occupation for NFL fans everywhere in 1980 since everyone had an opinion on the nature of the Steelers' troubles and the permanence of those troubles.

"Everybody's an expert on what's wrong with us," said Steeler coach Chuck Noll. "They all point to the lack of a pass rush; that's an obvious thing."

It may have been the only thing really worth worrying about. Injuries were directly responsible for most of the Steelers' other troubles, but there's a serious question whether the once-vaunted Steel Curtain lacks the knack for the sack.

Mean Joe Greene, long-time leader of the defensive line that had a league-low 18 sacks last season, shrugs it off. "What's wrong with the Steelers in 1980 was injuries and the rest of the National Football League," he said. "It's a competitive business. But our dynasty has just been interrupted, not ended."

The dynasty may be over, but a comeback could indeed be in the offing. The Steelers still have impressive strength in virtually every area. If the defensive line can regain its superiority, so will the Steelers.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—If the good things that happen to Terry Bradshaw this year are equal to the bad things that happened in 1980, the rest of the NFL is in trouble. He had some personal problems that resulted in the filing of a divorce suit when the season ended. His receivers got hurt. His thumb on his throwing hand got hurt. His feelings got hurt when the Steelers got shoved out of the penthouse and into third place. Things got so bad that he talked about cancelling the rest of his football career in favor of working in a TV series. By opening day, though, it's likely that it'll be Bradshaw's TV plans that will be cancelled. Now 33, his body battered by a variety of injuries over the years, Bradshaw is still one of the finest quarterbacks in the business. No one else has won as many games. Given Lynn Swann and John Stallworth back in the lineup, he can be as deadly as ever.

Preparing for the day that Bradshaw really does decide to trade in his Pittsburgh address for one in Hollywood, the Steelers have armed themselves with a pair of quarterback pros-

Coaches: Chuck Noll, Rolie Dotsch, Tony Dungy, Dick Hoak, Tom Moore, George Perles, Paul Uram, Dick Walker, Woody Widenhofer.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
30	Anderson, Larry	CB	5-11	177	4	9/25/56	Louisiana Tech
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	165	3	7/6/56	Penn State
76	Banaszak, John	DE	6-3	244	7	8/24/50	Eastern Michigan
65	Beasley, Tom	DT-DE	6-5	263	4	8/11/54	Virginia Tech
83	Bell, Theo	WR	5-11	180	5	12/21/53	Arizona
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6-3	205	12	4/10/48	Southern
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3	215	12	9/2/48	Louisiana Tech
79	Brown, Larry	T	6-4	265	11	6/16/49	Kansas
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	220	5	9/11/55	New Mexico
5	Colquitt, Craig	P	6-2	185	4	6/9/54	Tennessee
77	Courtson, Steve	G	6-1	260	4	10/1/55	South Carolina
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE	6-4	247	6	12/23/54	Clemson
45	Davis, Russell	RB	6-1	215	2	9/15/56	Michigan
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1	255	14	7/4/44	Allen
07	Dunn, Gary	DT	6-3	247	5	8/24/53	Miami
64	Furness, Steve	DT-DE	6-4	255	10	12/5/50	Rhode Island
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4	260	13	9/24/46	North Texas State

68	Greenwood, L. C.	DE	6-6	250	13	9/8/46	Arkansas AM&N
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6-1	225	8	9/20/53	Temple
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1	225	11	12/23/48	Penn State
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2	225	10	3/7/50	Penn State
27	Hawthorne, Greg	RB	6-3	225	3	9/5/56	Baylor
62	Ilkin, Tunch	T	6-3	253	2	9/23/57	Indiana State
23	Johnson, Run	CB	5-10	200	4	6/6/56	Eastern Michigan
53	Kolb, Jon	T	6-2	262	13	8/30/47	Oklahoma State
58	Lambert, Jack	QB	6-4	220	8	7/6/52	Kent State
19	Malone, Mark	LB	6-4	223	2	11/22/58	Arizona State
61	McGirt, Tyrone	G	6-0	267	2	12/13/58	Florida A&M
41	Moriarty, Tom	S	6-0	190	5	4/7/53	Bowling Green
66	Peterson, Ted	C-T	6-5	244	5	2/7/55	Eastern Illinois
74	Pinney, Ray	G-C	6-4	240	5	6/29/54	Washington
31	Pollard, Frank	RB	5-10	210	2	6/15/57	Baylor
86	Smith, Donnie	S	5-11	190	8	8/26/52	South Carolina State
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	205	5	7/20/55	Michigan
16	Stewart, Cliff	QB	6-4	183	8	7/15/52	Alabama A&M
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6-4	218	5	3/27/55	Youngstown State
85	Sweeney, Calvin	WR	6-0	180	8	3/7/52	Southern California
24	Thomas, J. T.	S-CB	6-2	196	2	1/12/55	Southern California
38	Thorrion, Sidney	RB	5-11	230	5	4/22/51	Florida State
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3	222	9	11/3/51	Northwest Louisiana
54	Valentine, Zack	LB	6-2	220	3	5/29/57	East Carolina
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1	250	8	3/18/52	Wisconsin
53	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	228	5	10/25/55	Arkansas
73	Wolfe, Craig	G	6-1	253	2	5/19/58	Syracuse
49	Woodruff, Dwayne	CB-S	5-11	189	3	2/18/57	Louisville

pects. Cliff Stoudt is now in his fifth year of waiting in the wings, while Mark Malone, a first round draft pick in 1980, will be earning his keep as a watcher for the second year.

Running backs—He wasn't the same old Franco Harris in 1980, but it would be a mistake to declare this great running back as being over the hill until he personally announces his retirement. There have been other seasons when his production dipped, only to be followed by a banner year. Harris, now the third-leading ground gainer in NFL history, was 17th in rushing last season, when he was bothered by injuries and still gained 789 yards and averaged 3.8 yards per carry. The production wasn't vintage Franco, but it was still more than twice the yardage any other Steeler runner could claim. This might be the year, though, that the 31-year-old fullback gets rested more frequently as the Steelers turn more often to Sidney Thornton and Greg Hawthorne, a pair of powerful runners with good speed. Thornton has been contributing steadily for four years, but the big season expected from Hawthorne, a No. 1 draft pick in 1979, is yet to come, perhaps because of a series of injuries.

Receivers—Pittsburgh's wide receiver corps can be the equal of any, but not under the circumstances it faced last season. First, it was John Stallworth who was shelved for the season with a leg injury. Then, it was Jim Smith, his very capable replacement. Lynn Swann had injury problems, too, but remained in the lineup. The injuries, coupled with constant double coverage, limited his production to 44 catches. With Stallworth and Smith returning to worry defenses from the other side, Swann should regain his status as one of the most dangerous receivers in the league. The subs are capable, too, topped by Theo Bell, who averaged 25.8 yards on 29 catches last year, and second-year man Calvin Sweeney. The production from the tight ends, Bennie Cunningham and Randy Grossman, hardly has been dazzling. Neither is mentioned as being among the superstars.

Offensive line—When the Steelers named Tyrone McGriff as the last man selected in the 1980 draft, they had no intention of using him as a starter so quickly. But start he did, in more than half their games. Injuries to just about everybody made that a necessity. Physical problems cut a wide swath through the Steeler front wall, sidelining veteran guard Sam Davis for the entire season and causing the other guard, Steve Courson, to miss considerable playing time with an ankle injury. Center Mike Webster was outstanding despite being surrounded by inexperienced help, and



No. 32 Franco Harris

despite playing much of the year with damaged cartilage in his knee. Webster will be back again in 1981, but there could be changes elsewhere. Davis is headed into his 15th season. Tackle Jon Kolb, hobbled by an ankle injury last year, is a 13-year veteran, and the other tackle, Larry Brown, is in his 11th year. Brown played well again last season, and if Kolb shows signs of slipping, Brown could be paired at tackle with either Ted Petersen or Ray Pinney. Pinney might also figure in plugging the guard spot that once belonged to Davis. It's an offensive line with many question marks, but all of them should be handled capably because of the Steeler depth.

DEFENSE

Line—Joe Greene and L.C. Greenwood both will be 35 during the opening month of the season. Steve Furness and John Banaszak both will become 31 during the season. Is

there too much gray showing in the defensive line that could offer virtually no pass rush in 1980? There are some younger bodies available: fifth-year man Gary Dunn, four-year vet Tom Beasley, and sophomore John Goodman—but none has yet proved he can hold down a steady job. Goodman, a second-round pick in 1980, could be the answer at one of the defensive end spots, and Beasley is likely to get a lot of time at tackle.

Linebackers—Even the third stringers are good. Pittsburgh's linebacking talent is truly awesome, with the Steelers having stockpiled several high draft choices at linebacker the past few years. Most of them, however, have difficulty finding playing time because the starters are outstanding. Jack Ham wasn't the superior force of former years in 1980, but he was bothered all season with an injury. And Jack Lambert, still the most feared linebacker in football, was also slowed by injury, but is expected back in top shape this season. That leaves Robin Cole, whose only failings are on pass defense. If he could polish up that part of his routine, he could be an All-Pro. The men on the bench include Dennis Winston and Loren Toews, who could start for most other teams, and a pair of youngsters, Zack Valentine and Bob Kohrs. Valentine and Kohrs, both second round draft picks in the past three years, are ticketed to be standouts in the future.

Secondary—Mike Wagner has retired, and J. T. Thomas gets minimal playing time. This is a unit in transition. Mel Blount, the cornerback in his 12th year, still gets the job done, and Ron Johnson is especially effective on the other side at stopping sweeps. There was off-season talk that Johnson might be moved to Wagner's free safety position, and that might open a cornerback spot for Dwayne Woodruff or possibly Larry Anderson. Soph Bill Hurley could also break in at a safety spot. The one sure thing about the secondary is the status of strong safety Donnie Shell, a stinger who was the team's MVP last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

There are no superstars in Pittsburgh's special teams department, but there are no weak spots, either. In each phase of the game, the Steelers are among the top teams in the league. Theo Bell handles punt returns, averaging 10 yards per return, and rookie Frank Pollard's 22.5 yard average on kickoff returns last year came in steady, if unspectacular, fashion. The kickers are capable. Punter Craig Colquitt's net average of 35.5 yards was the fourth best in the league, and Matt Bahr drove home 19 of 28 field goal tries.



THE DRAFT

The Steelers moved quickly in the first round to enlist help for their aged front four, getting Oklahoma defensive end Keith Gary, who's seen as a likely replacement at left end for L.C. Greenwood. He's a late developer and may need a year before he moves in, but there's little doubt he'll become outstanding. Second rounder Anthony Washington will become a fine cornerback when he gains maturity, and third rounder Rick Donnalley is the Steeler center of the future. Robbie Porter and Ricky Martin, wide receivers taken on the fourth and fifth rounds, are iffy, while sixth rounder Brian Hinkle, a linebacker, is a hard-nosed hitter with problem knees.

It's questionable how much immediate help the Steelers can get from this draft, but there seem to be some good ones here for the future.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Keith Gary	17	DE	Oklahoma
2.	Anthony Washington	44	DB	Fresno State
3.	Rick Donnalley	73	C-G	North Carolina
4.	Robbie Martin	100	WR	Cal Poly-S.L.O.
5.	Ricky Martin	127	WR	New Mexico
6.	Bryan Hinkle	156	LB	Wyoming
7.	David Little	183	LB	Florida
8.	Frank Watson	209	RB	Rice
9.	James Hunter	239	OT	Southern California
10.	Mike Mayock	265	LB	Boston College
11.	Rick Trucano	292	QB	Pittsburgh
12.	(Choice to San Francisco)			



1980 RESULTS: WON 6 LOST 10

at Cincinnati....	12	Tampa Bay.....	17
Cincinnati....	16	at Miami.....	17
at Cincinnati....	30	Pittsburgh.....	28
at Cincinnati....	10	Houston.....	13
Cincinnati....	9	at Green Bay.....	14
Cincinnati....	17	at Pittsburgh.....	16
at Cincinnati....	14	Minnesota.....	0
Cincinnati....	3	at Houston.....	23
at Cincinnati....	14	San Diego.....	31
Cincinnati....	17	at Oakland.....	28
at Cincinnati....	0	Buffalo.....	14
Cincinnati....	7	at Cleveland.....	31
Cincinnati....	20	at Kansas City.....	6
at Cincinnati....	34	Baltimore.....	33
Cincinnati....	17	at Chicago (OT).....	14
at Cincinnati....	24	Cleveland.....	27
244		312	

No. 78 Anthony Munoz

Forrest Gregg found many things that displeased him when he took over as head coach at Cincinnati last year, and one of them was the players' attitude about the dress regulations on road trips. "We're getting paid executive salaries," he said, "and we should look like executives."

The biggest problem, though, is that in recent seasons the Bengals have been playing like executives. They had back-to-back 4-12 records prior to Gregg's arrival, despite the fact that everybody in pro football continually talked about the great amount of talent collected on the Cincinnati roster. The Bengals, it seemed, were pussy cats. Their greatest weakness was in the heart department.

Gregg seems to have had a beneficial effect, even though the improvement in the record was only by two games, to 6-10. More important, he helped jack the Bengals up from 28th in the league in defense to a highly respectable ninth. If he can breathe some life into the offense, the victories will come.

"Forrest Gregg is like E.F. Hutton," says Cincy running back Charles Alexander. "When he talks, people listen."

At least he has given the formerly frustrated team some hope. "When we say 'Wait 'til next year,' we're not jivin' anymore," says defensive lineman Eddie Edwards. "In 1981, we'll be for real."

OFFENSE

Quarterback—The Bengals averaged only 15.3 points per game last year, the second most anemic output in the league, and one of the primary problems was with the quarterback. Veteran Ken Anderson was frequently injured, able to finish only two of the games he started. He wasn't especially effective when he did play, however, throwing 13 interceptions and only six touchdown passes.

With Anderson wounded, the Bengals gave a crash course in quarterbacking to Jack Thompson, their No. 1 draft pick of 1979, and he performed as expected—good sometimes, bad sometimes. Experience will probably provide consistency.

The experience he gained last year may snag Thompson a starting job. The Bengals aren't going anywhere with the 32-year old Anderson at quarterback, and it's time to build around Thompson. The throwin' Samoan had 11 TDs and 12 interceptions among his 234 attempts in 1980, giving some evidence that the Bengals made a good move when they drafted him.

Running backs—Pete Johnson, the human tank, missed five games because of injury and still managed to lead Cincinnati in rush-

Coaches: Forrest Gregg, Hank Bullough, Bruce Coslet, Lindy Infante, Dick LeBeau, Jim McNally, Dick Modzelewski, George Sefcik, Kim Wood.

CINCINNATI BENGALS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth-date	College
40	Alexander, Charles	RB	6-1	226	3	7/28/57	Louisiana State
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-3	208	11	2/15/49	Augustana, Ill.
84	Bass, Don	WR	6-2	220	4	3/11/56	Houston
19	Birney, Tom	K	6-4	220	3	8/11/56	Michigan
10	Brecht, Jim	K	5-6	157	3	4/11/56	California
34	Breedon, Louis	CB	5-11	185	4	10/26/53	North Carolina Central
47	Bright, Greg	S	6-0	208	2	8/2/57	Morehead State
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	261	4	3/22/54	Notre Dame
74	Bujnoch, Glenn	G	6-5	258	6	12/20/53	Texas A&M
67	Burley, Gary	DE	6-3	270	6	12/8/52	Pittsburgh
58	Rush, Blair	C	6-3	250	4	11/25/56	Washington
50	Cameron, Glenn	LB	6-2	228	7	2/21/53	Florida
24	Chapman, Clarence	CB	5-10	185	6	12/10/53	Eastern Michigan
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1	192	9	10/20/50	San Diego State
52	Dinkel, Tom	LB	6-3	235	4	7/25/56	Kansas
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	261	5	4/25/54	Miami
64	Glass, Bill	G	6-4	261	2	12/21/57	Baylor
45	Griffin, Archie	RB	5-9	184	6	8/21/54	Ohio State
44	Griffin, Ray	CB	5-10	186	4	6/29/56	Ohio State
53	Harris, Bo	LB	6-3	226	7	7/16/53	Louisiana State
83	Harris, M. L.	TE	6-5	238	2	1/16/54	Kansas State
36	Heath, Jo Jo	CB	5-10	182	2	3/9/57	Pittsburgh

27	Hicks, Bryan	S	6-0	192	2	1/24/57	McNeese State
71	Horn, Rod	NT	6-4	268	2	11/23/56	Nebraska
30	Jauron, Dick	S	6-0	190	9	10/7/50	Yale
46	Johnson, Pete	RB	6-0	249	5	3/2/54	Ohio State
86	Kreider, Steve	WR	6-3	192	3	5/12/58	Lehigh
61	Kurnick, Howard	LB	6-2	219	2	5/13/57	Cincinnati
62	Lapham, Dave	G	6-4	262	8	6/24/52	Syracuse
55	Le Clair, Jim	LB	6-3	234	10	10/30/50	North Dakota
88	Levenseller, Mike	WR	6-1	184	4	2/21/56	Washington State
87	McNally, Pat	P-WR	6-6	213	6	5/7/53	Harvard
59	Melantree, Andrew	LB	6-4	226	2	12/1/57	Baylor
28	Montgomery, Cleotha	KR	5-8	183	2	7/1/56	Abilene Christian
65	Monrovia, Max	T	6-5	275	3	5/12/56	UCLA
60	Moore, Blake	C	6-5	260	2	5/8/58	Wooster
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	2	6/19/58	Southern California
35	Poole, Nathan	RB	5-8	205	3	12/17/56	Louisville
51	Razzano, Rick	LB	5-11	227	2	11/15/55	Virginia Tech
13	Riley, Ken	CB	6-0	183	13	8/6/47	Florida A&M
89	Ross, Dan	TE	6-4	235	3	2/9/57	Northeastern
15	Schoner, Turk	QB	6-1	185	2	1/15/57	Stanford
56	Sinkins, Ron	LB	6-1	235	2	4/2/58	Michigan
72	St. Clair, Mike	DE	6-5	250	7	9/2/53	Grambling
73	Suggs, Shafer	S	6-1	204	6	4/28/53	Ball State
12	Thompson, Jack	QB	6-3	217	3	5/19/56	Washington State
22	Turner, Deacon	RB-KR	5-11	210	4	1/2/55	San Diego State
83	White, Mike	DE	6-5	267	3	8/11/57	Albany State
75	Whitley, Wilson	NT	6-3	265	5	4/28/55	Houston
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-1	228	6	9/19/54	Dartmouth
77	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	271	4	5/28/55	Georgia



No. 40 Charles Alexander

ing and was the only man on the team with a run of more than 40 yards.

One of the other backs, Archie (double Heisman Trophy winner) Griffin, isn't doing much. He hasn't run for a touchdown for the past four years.

Charles Alexander, another first round pick (1979) has yet to justify the scouting reports, but he began making progress last season when he had 702 yards and a 4.2 yard average. With him alongside Johnson, the Bengals have a solid pair of power runners. Johnson, a 260-pound heavyweight, had 100 or more yards in four of Cincinnati's last five games, three of them victories. Those are facts Gregg surely remembered in the off-season as he plotted offensive strategy for this year.

Receivers—This is the area where the Bengals of '81 will be most improved. They used their first two draft choices to take wide receivers. One of them, David Verser from Kansas, was the consensus pick as the best fly-catcher in the draft, and he could remind Bengal fans of a young Isaac Curtis. An old Isaac Curtis will be on the other end of the line from Verser, if he can keep another rookie, second round pick Cris Collinsworth, from taking his job away. Regardless who plays, these three will give Cincy its best corps of receivers in many years.

The tight end, Dan Ross, has caught nearly 100 passes in the past two seasons and provides an additional threat. The subs in the re-

ceiving department will be Don Bass and Pat McInally.

Offensive line—They're young, they're prime draft picks, and they're likely to be the building blocks that help Cincinnati become a contender again. Six of Cincy's offensive linemen were drafted in the first four rounds, most of them within the past four years.

The youngest and already the best is mountainous Anthony Munoz, the 280-pound left tackle whom the Bengals made the third player selected in the 1980 draft. The only question about him is the durability of his knees, which underwent three operations before he left Southern Cal. The other tackle, 274-pound Mike Wilson, takes care of business extremely well on the other side of the line. The Bengals made him a third-round pick four years ago, after it was already known he'd go to Canada. Had he been willing to play in the NFL immediately, he'd have been a first-rounder. But the Bengals were patient, and now they've got a good one.

The center is Blair Bush, a first round pick from 1978, and the guards are Glenn Bujnoch and Max Montoya, although one of them will have to resist a challenge for his job from second-year man Bill Glass, Jr. The other reserves appear to be Dave Lapham, for several years a starter, and Blake Moore.

DEFENSE

Line—It was slow in coming, but Cincinnati

finally has put together a defensive line that performs up to expectations. The Bengals string a trio of first round draft choices across the front of their defense and dare opponents to run at them. In 1980, those running attempts weren't very successful; Cincy was fourth in the league against the run. They're all capable heavyweights, all in the 265-pound range. Wilson Whitley is the nose tackle, with Eddie Edwards and Ross Browner manning the end spots. The pass rush hasn't been overwhelming, with virtually no pressure coming from the middle. Browner and Edwards were the sack leaders last year with only seven apiece. The reserves include Rod Horn and Mike White, two more high draft choices of recent years who could develop into fine players.

Linebackers—For many years the Bengals had adequate individuals but a weak unit. That changed in 1980, when it seemed they had created a cohesive force. The best on the team is Jim LeClair, a 10-year veteran who may be the most underrated inside linebacker in the league. The other inside spot is handled by Glenn Cameron, with a push coming from a pair of second-year men, Andrew Melontree and Kirby Criswell. The two outside spots in Cincinnati's 3-4 alignment will be handled by Bo Harris and either Tom Dinkel or Reggie Williams.

Secondary—Improved and getting better, the Bengal pass defense was respectable last year despite the presence of two rookies and a third-year man in the lineup. The experience is sure to help them.

The rookies play safety, free safety Bryan Hicks and strong safety Greg Bright. Both were pleasant surprises, with Hicks a fifth-round draft pick and Bright coming in the ninth round. The young cornerback was Louis Breeden, whose seven interceptions were more than double the next Bengal. Ken Riley, a 13-year veteran, is back to reclaim his right cornerback spot, but if he slips, the assignment could go to JoJo Heath, another rookie from the 1980 crop. Reserves anxious for playing time include Ray Griffin, Shafer Suggs, and Clarence Chapman.

SPECIAL TEAMS

With the exception of punter Pat McInally, who averaged a respectable 40.8 yards per punt, Cincy's special teams were a disaster area in 1980, and changes are sure to be made this season. The Bengals tried and discarded several placekickers during the season and spent the winter looking for more candidates. The kick return department was deficient, too, with Cleotha Montgomery's work substandard in both areas.



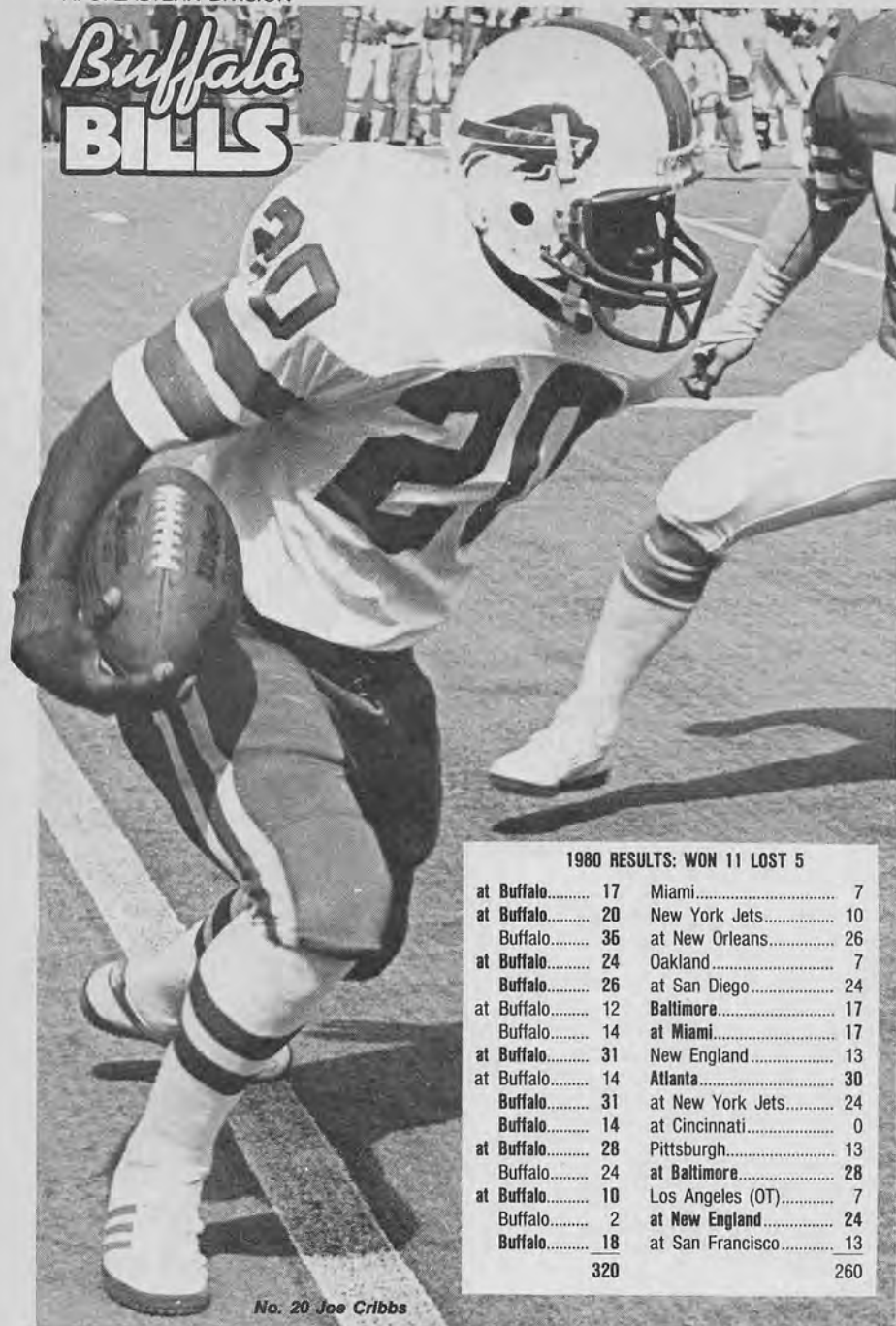
THE DRAFT

Cincinnati isn't known as one of the league pacesetters on draft day, but the Bengals seem to have hit the jackpot this year. They drafted a pair of wide receivers, David Verser and Cris Collinsworth, in the first two rounds, and both could be starters immediately. Verser was the best at his position in the draft, a potential superstar, and Collinsworth had an outstanding collegiate career; in the fifth round, Cincy took tight end Benjie Pryor, who was said to have first round ability but a fifth round motivation. Perhaps doing battle in the NFL will arouse his competitive instincts. Third round cornerback John Simmons might be another immediate starter, and fourth round linebacker Guy Frazier can be outstanding if he adds weight to his 210-pound frame. As a bonus, Cincy might have made the steal of the draft when it got placekicker Rex Robinson in the sixth round.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	David Verser	10	WR	Kansas
2	Cris Collinsworth	37	WR	Florida
3	John Simmons	64	DB	Southern Methodist
4	Guy Frazier	93	LB	Wyoming
5	Benjie Pryor	120	TE	Pittsburgh
6	Rex Robinson	146	PK	Georgia
7	Jeff Schuh	176	LB	Minnesota
8	Bob Kemp	202	DB	Cal State-Fullerton
9	Jim Hannula	229	OT	Northern Illinois
9	(From San Francisco)			
	Samoa Samia	230	QB-RB	Washington
10	Hubert Simpson	258	RB	Tennessee
11	Robert Jackson	285	DB	Central Michigan
12	Mark O'Connell	312	QB	Bail State

Buffalo Bills



No. 20 Joe Cribbs

1980 RESULTS: WON 11 LOST 5

at Buffalo.....	17	Miami.....	7
at Buffalo.....	20	New York Jets.....	10
Buffalo.....	36	at New Orleans.....	26
at Buffalo.....	24	Oakland.....	7
Buffalo.....	26	at San Diego.....	24
at Buffalo.....	12	Baltimore.....	17
Buffalo.....	14	at Miami.....	17
at Buffalo.....	31	New England.....	13
at Buffalo.....	14	Atlanta.....	30
Buffalo.....	31	at New York Jets.....	24
Buffalo.....	14	at Cincinnati.....	0
at Buffalo.....	28	Pittsburgh.....	13
Buffalo.....	24	at Baltimore.....	28
at Buffalo.....	10	Los Angeles (OT).....	7
Buffalo.....	2	at New England.....	24
Buffalo.....	18	at San Francisco.....	13
	320		260

To be No. 1 in this league," says Chuck Knox, "you've got to begin with defense. Unlike the offense, your defense can go out and be consistent every game. Defenses don't self-destruct, like offenses sometimes do."

Knox obviously is a man worth listening to. After five consecutive first-place finishes with the Los Angeles Rams, he has reconstructed the once-hapless Buffalo Bills into a team that opponents no longer can regard as an open date on the schedule.

He built the Bills into the toughest defensive team in the league, all the more impressive in view of the fact that in 1978, his first year at Buffalo, the Bills were the worst defensive team in the league.

Part of his formula has involved the draft. Once among the worst pickers in pro football, the Bills have made some impressive choices since Knox improved the scouting department. His enthusiasm for acquiring veterans who had worn out their welcomes elsewhere, Frank Lewis, Conrad Dobler, Roosevelt Leaks, Ron Jessie, Phil Villapiano, and Isiah Robertson has also been important.

"I brought in some veterans I thought would give us stability," he said. "The right kind of people can help you in ways that don't show up right away."

His reward for raising the Bills from the depths in three years was Coach of the Year acclaim in 1980 from several groups. Even more important, though, are the votes coming in from the Buffalo ticket office. The Bills started 1980 with the lowest season ticket sale in the league, 21,300. But the Buffalo surge brought the customers out, and the Bills played before home audiences averaging more than 73,000.

"Chuck Knox could produce a dynasty for us," says team owner Ralph Wilson. While that might be a bit optimistic because dynasties are so few and far between, Knox nevertheless has Buffalo moving in the right direction.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—For most of his years as the Buffalo quarterback, Joe Ferguson was viewed as an automaton whose purpose was to hand the ball to O.J. Simpson, and consequently he never has received adequate credit for being one of the better passers in pro football. Ferguson still is at the controls of a very conservative offense, but he's a more than adequate passer, pitching for 20 touchdowns last season when he completed 57 percent of his throws for 2800 yards. His statistics could be more impressive if Knox should agree to open up the attack.

Coaches: Chuck Knox, Jim Carmody, Tom Catlin, Jack Donaldson, Ralph Hawkins, Chick Harris, Miller McCalmon, Steve Moore, Ray Prochaska, Kay Stephenson

BUFFALO BILLS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	HT.	WT.	Exp.	Birth date	College
28	Bess, Rufus	CB	5-9	180	3	9/13/56	South Carolina State
73	Borchardt, Jon	T	6-5	255	3	8/13/57	Montana State
86	Brammer, Mark	TE	6-3	235	2	5/3/58	Michigan State
47	Brown, Curtis	FB	5-10	203	5	12/7/54	Missouri
	Brown, Eddie	S	5-11	190	6	2/19/52	Tennessee
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6-0	178	3	10/12/57	Clemson
7	Cater, Greg	P	6-1	191	2	4/17/57	Tennessee-Chattanooga
29	Clark, Mario	CB	6-2	195	4	3/29/54	Oregon
20	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	190	2	1/5/58	Auburn
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	250	6	2/23/54	Iowa
89	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-3	255	10	10/1/50	Wyoming
84	Ferguson, Duke	WR	6-1	185	4	4/21/54	San Diego State
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	9	4/23/50	Arkansas
22	Freeman, Steve	S	5-11	185	7	5/8/53	Mississippi State
88	Gant, Reuben	TE	6-4	225	8	4/12/52	Oklahoma State
53	Grant, Will	C	6-4	248	4	3/7/54	Kentucky
21	Greene, Doug	S	6-2	205	4	2/10/56	Texas A&M
74	Hardison, Dee	T	6-4	269	4	5/2/56	North Carolina
55	Hasetti, Jim	LB	6-3	232	3	12/9/55	Indiana, Pa.
25	Hooks, Roland	RB	6-0	195	6	1/2/53	North Carolina State

10	Humm, David	QB	6-2	190	7	4/2/52	Nebraska
90	Hutchinson, Scott	DE	6-4	243	4	5/27/56	Florida
97	Irvin, Darrell	DE	6-4	255	2	1/21/57	Oklahoma
81	Jessie, Ron	WR	6-0	181	11	2/4/48	Kansas
91	Johnson, Ken	DE	6-5	253	3	3/25/55	Knoxville
72	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	250	6	12/1/52	Arkansas State
0	Justin, Sid	CB	5-10	175	2	8/14/54	Long Beach State
71	Kadish, Mike	NT	6-5	250	6	5/27/50	Notre Dame
52	Keating, Chris	LB	6-2	223	3	10/12/57	Maine
42	Kush, Rod	S	6-0	188	2	12/29/56	Nebraska-Omaha
48	Leaks, Roosevelt	RB	5-10	225	7	1/31/53	Texas
82	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	11	7/7/47	Grambling
11	Manucci, Dan	QB	6-2	194	3	9/3/57	Kansas State
67	McKenzie, Reggie	G	6-5	242	10	7/27/50	Michigan
5	Mike-Mayer, Nick	K	5-9	185	9	3/1/50	Temple
59	Nelson, Shane	LB	6-1	225	5	5/25/55	Baylor
38	Nixon, Jeff	S	6-3	190	3	10/13/56	Richmond
62	Parker, Ervin	LB	6-4	225	2	8/19/58	South Carolina State
89	Piccone, Lou	WR	5-9	175	8	7/17/49	West Liberty State
51	Ritcher, Jim	C	6-3	251	2	5/21/58	North Carolina State
58	Robertson, Isiah	LB	6-3	225	11	8/17/49	Southern
26	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	5	12/16/54	North Carolina Central
57	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	216	4	2/14/56	Georgia Tech
45	Simpson, Bill	S	6-1	191	6	12/5/51	Michigan State
76	Smerlas, Fred	NT	6-3	270	3	4/8/57	Boston College
	Solomon, Roland	CB	5-11	180	2	2/6/56	Utah
41	Villapiano, Phil	LB	6-2	225	11	2/26/49	Bowling Green
65	Vogler, Tim	C	6-3	245	3	12/20/56	Ohio State
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5	250	10	10/6/48	California
77	Williams, Ben	DE	6-3	245	6	9/1/54	Mississippi



Ferguson, now 31 and in his eighth year as the Bills' starting quarterback, has been supplied with a fine pair of wide receivers, and should become even more dangerous this year when the team's young tight end matures and becomes more productive.

Running back—They're holding their breath in Buffalo, hoping that Joe Cribbs doesn't turn out to be another Terry Miller. It was Miller who was heir-apparent to O. J. after the Bills made him their No. 7 draft selection in 1978. After a great start, including 1060 yards gained as a rookie, he has not been productive; and in 1980 he carried just 12 times. So, shortly after the draft in April, the Bills let him go to Cleveland for future draft consideration.

Cribbs' running mate is rookie Booker Moore, the first-round draft choice who will unseat incumbent Curtis Brown, a steady but unspectacular type who blocks well. On short-yardage plays, Buffalo's best still is Roosevelt Leaks, a superb blocker who can lead Moore through any whole.

Receivers—Being traded from Pittsburgh to Buffalo in 1978 was the best thing that could possibly have happened to Frank Lewis, who went from being a bench-warmer with the Steelers to a star with the Bills. He has averaged 45 catches each of the past three years, and last year his per catch average of 16.2 yards was the best on the team. He's an important contributor to Buffalo's success, but he's still overshadowed by Jerry Butler, who

was invited to the Pro Bowl in 1980 after being AFC rookie of the year in 1979. With Butler on one side and Lewis on the other, the Bills are well set. They'll be even better, though, when tight end Mark Brammer blossoms. He caught only 26 passes his rookie season, but that total should increase as he learns his lessons in the art of coping with NFL strongside linebackers.

The seldom-summoned men waiting on the bench include Lou Piccone, Ron Jessie, and Reuben Gant.

Line—The Bills traded away the very best they had—Joe DeLamielleure—and still managed to have a sensational season in 1980, permitting only 20 quarterback sacks. Two major factors were the arrival of Conrad Dobler and the development of Ken Jones. Dobler, although not the equal of DeLamielleure, lessened the impact of losing Joe D., and his experience helped hold the Buffalo line together. Jones, a starter for the third year at left tackle, was hardly heralded, but insiders regarded him as one of the best blockers in the league. Reggie McKenzie, a second-team all-conference choice last season, does good work at the left guard spot, making that side of the line extremely tough.

Sophomore Jim Ritcher has tremendous physical ability and may replace incumbent Will Grant at center, adding even more muscle to the forward wall. The right tackle is Joe Devlin, a strong run blocker. The subs are a pair of young ones still learning their trade,

Jon Borchardt and Dee Hardison, a converted defensive lineman.

DEFENSE

Line—No team gave up fewer yards than Buffalo last season, and the key to the Bills' defensive success is nose tackle Fred Smerlas, who dominates the middle of the line. The defensive ends, Sherman White and Ben Williams, are dependable. Williams has become an excellent pass rusher, getting a dozen sacks last year, but he's the only Bill who really pressures the passer. Ken Johnson, who may take away White's job as a starter, heads a list of subs that includes Mike Kadish and Scott Hutchinson.

Linebackers—They call it the "Bermuda Triangle," that area patrolled by nose tackle Fred Smerlas and inside linebackers Shane Nelson and Jim Haslett, "because ball carriers have a habit of getting lost in our territory." Haslett is a tiger in his third year from little Indiana (PA), and Nelson was a free agent find after the computer said he'd be too small and too slow for the NFL. The Bills wisely decided to keep Nelson and release the computer. Nelson has either led the Bills in tackles or been second in each of his three years with the team. Lucius Sanford mans one of the outside linebacker spots, but the Bills may be in the market for another outside linebacker if they dismiss controversial Isiah Robertson, as expected. The arrival of Tom Cousineau from Canada certainly could remedy the situation.

Secondary—The Bills were second among the 28 teams in pass defense, testimonial that the four men in the secondary are doing excellent work. Mario Clark and Charles Rome are fine cornerbacks, though neither makes the All-Star teams, where the berths go to guys with big interception counts. Both Jeff Nixon and Bill Simpson can get the job done at free safety. Simpson ended a two-year retirement to rescue his old buddy Knox after Nixon suffered a knee injury midway through what was a banner year. Steve Freeman, the strong safety, was Buffalo's leader in interceptions in 1980 with seven.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The special teams are not very good in any area. Placekicker Nick Mike-Mayer made only 9 of 19 field goal tries beyond 30 yards; punter Danny Cater averaged just 38.7 yards, and the Bills were 25th in the league last year in punt returns, 28th in kickoff returns. Cribbs, a workhorse who shouldn't be saddled with punt return duties, handled that chore last year but probably will be relieved of the task this season. He averaged only 5.3 yards.



THE DRAFT

Although fullback Booker Moore, a first round pick from Penn State, is likely to be the only rookie in the starting lineup, the Bills made some interesting additions that should benefit them in the future. Moore, a squat, explosive runner, will prevent opponents from leaning too heavily on Joe Cribbs.

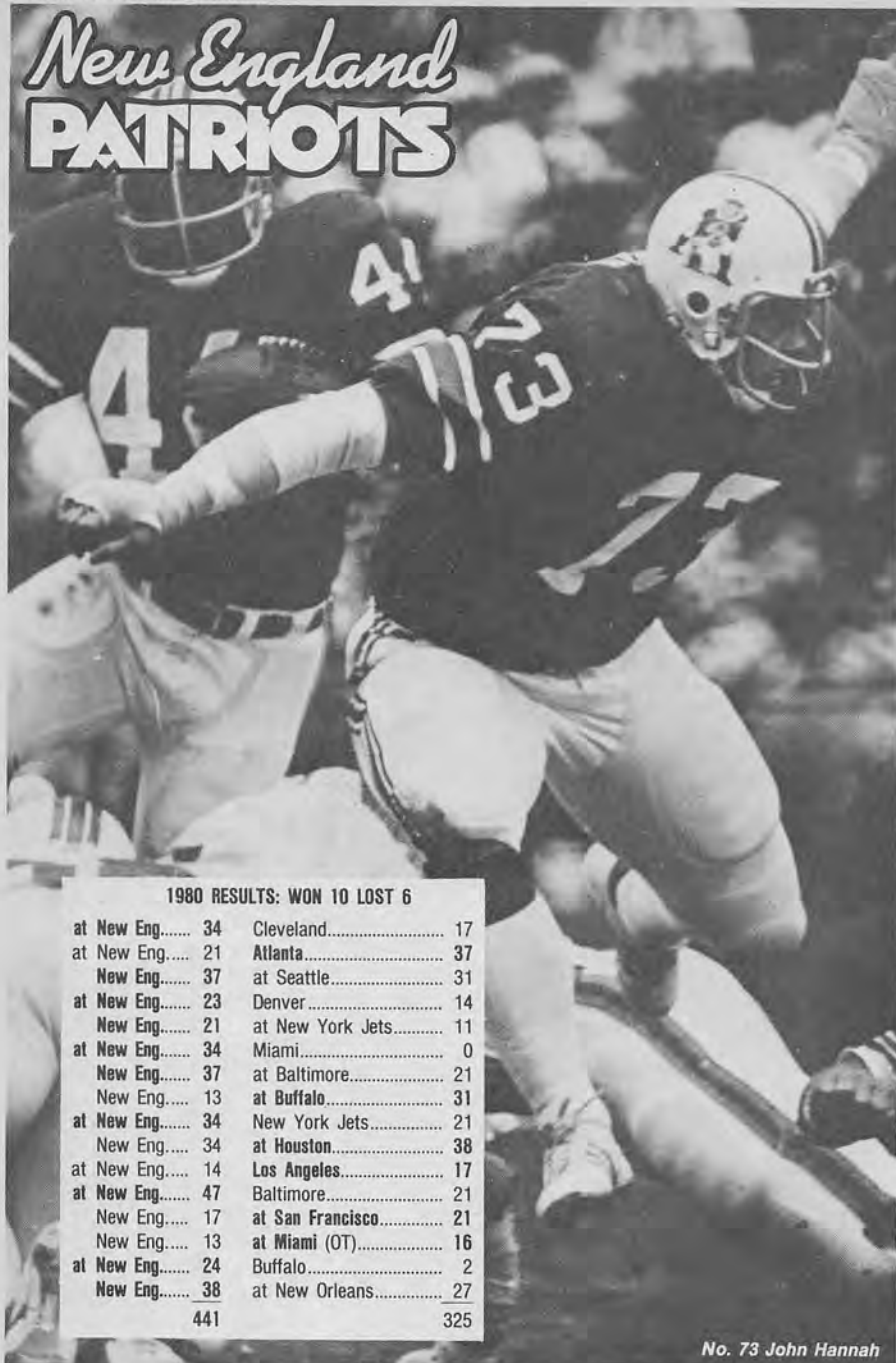
A pair of wide receivers with super speed were selected on the second (Byron Franklin) and third (Mike Mosley) rounds, and both could be outstanding if... Franklin must overcome a tendency to drop easy passes, and the tag on Mosley was that he must gain personal maturity. More reliable, but less speedy, is Robert Holt, a wide receiver picked on the sixth round.

Chris Williams, who can play either corner or safety, was a second round pick and would have been a definite first except for some doubt about his knee, which has been surgically repaired twice. He may be the answer to the team's kick return weaknesses. Robert Geathers, a defensive tackle who improved greatly as a senior, is expected to become a solid professional.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	(Choice to Oakland)			
1.	(From Oakland)			
1.	Booker Moore	28	RB	Penn State
2.	(From Cleveland)			
2.	Chris Williams	49	DB	Louisiana State
2.	Byron Franklin	50	WR	Auburn
3.	Mike Mosley	76	WR	Texas A&M
3.	(From Oakland)			
3.	Robert Geathers	83	DT	South Carolina State
4.	(Choice to Los Angeles)			
5.	Calvin Clark	135	DE	Purdue
6.	Robert Holt	161	WR	Baylor
7.	Steve Ooolittle	188	LB	Colorado
8.	(Choice to New Orleans)			
9.	Robb Riddick	241	RB	Millersville
10.	Justin Cross	272	OT	Western Colorado
11.	Buster Barnett	299	TE	Jackson State
12.	Keith Clark	326	LB	Memphis State

New England PATRIOTS



1980 RESULTS: WON 10 LOST 6

at New Eng.....	34	Cleveland.....	17
at New Eng.....	21	Atlanta.....	37
New Eng.....	37	at Seattle.....	31
at New Eng.....	23	Denver.....	14
New Eng.....	21	at New York Jets.....	11
at New Eng.....	34	Miami.....	0
New Eng.....	37	at Baltimore.....	21
New Eng.....	13	at Buffalo.....	21
at New Eng.....	34	New York Jets.....	31
New Eng.....	34	at Houston.....	38
at New Eng.....	14	Los Angeles.....	17
at New Eng.....	47	Baltimore.....	21
New Eng.....	17	at San Francisco.....	21
New Eng.....	13	at Miami (OT).....	16
at New Eng.....	24	Buffalo.....	2
New Eng.....	38	at New Orleans.....	27
	441		325

No. 73 John Hannah

Year after year, the New England Patriots are cited as one of the foremost collections of football talent in the NFL, and yet, this is a franchise that doesn't have a single post-season victory of any sort since 1963. In each of the past two years, the Patriots had a 6-2 record at midseason, but when the leaves start falling in New England, so do the Patriots. In each of the past two years, they have posted 4-4 records in the second half of the season.

Maybe this year will be different. Maybe this will be the year that the Patriots harness all that scoring ability (28 points per game last season) and avoid the radical ups and downs such as last year when they scored 14 points one week, 47 the next week, and 17 the week after that. Maybe this will be the year that the Patriots won't spend Christmas explaining why they failed.

Maybe this will be the year... but that's what we say about the Patriots every year.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Taking togetherness to the point of absurdity, both of the Patriots' quarterbacks had knee operations in the off-season. Although some observers are predicting a tough battle between Steve Grogan and Matt Cavanaugh for the top job this season; that sounds like wishful thinking. Grogan often is charged with being erratic, but he is one of the league's most dangerous quarterbacks, still considerably ahead of the inexperienced Cavanaugh. For now, at least, Grogan will remain No. 1. He was having the best year of his career, leading the league in passing, when he began having knee problems last season and had to yield the starting job to Cavanaugh.

Nobody in the league could match Grogan's average gain of more than eight yards per pass attempt, an indicating how heavily he relies on the bomb instead of choosing the far safer "dump and run" offenses that some teams employ. But another indicator of his reliance on the long ball comes from his interception ratio—7.2 percent, the highest rating in the league.

Cavanaugh had considerable playing time last season and showed several good traits (9 TD passes among 63 completions), but he also showed that he lacks Grogan's powerful throwing arm. Now in his seventh year, Grogan finally may have the maturity needed to help him overcome his erratic tendencies. If he has, Cavanaugh will give the Patriots their best alternate quarterback in years, but their chances of staying in the race are much better with the veteran Grogan at quarterback.

Coaches: Ron Erhardt, Raymond Berry, Rick Buffington, Gino Cappelletti, Billy Kinard, Rick Lantz, Bill Parcells, John Polonchek, Jim Ringo, Fritz Shurmur, Tom Yewcic.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-4	263	10	4/26/48	Texas Southern
61	Adams, Sam	G	6-3	260	10	9/20/48	Prairie View
64	Bishop, Richard	NT-DE	6-1	260	6	3/23/50	Louisville
58	Brock, Pete	C	6-5	260	6	7/14/54	Colorado
87	Brown, Preston	WR	5-10	184	2	3/23/58	Vanderbilt
63	Buben, Mark	DE	6-3	260	2	3/23/57	Tufts
44	Calhoun, Don	RB	6-0	212	8	4/29/52	Kansas State
12	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-1	210	4	10/27/56	Pittsburgh
35	Clark, Allan	RB	5-10	186	3	6/8/57	Northern Arizona
26	Clayborn, Ray	CB	6-1	190	5	1/2/55	Texas
55	Costick, Ray	LB	6-0	218	4	3/19/55	Mississippi State
75	Cryder, Bob	G	6-4	265	4	9/7/56	Alabama
28	Currier, Bill	S	6-0	195	5	1/5/55	South Carolina
43	Ferguson, Vagas	RB	6-1	194	2	3/6/57	Notre Dame
22	Foreman, Chuck	RB	6-2	212	9	10/26/50	Miami
48	Fox, Tim	S	5-11	190	6	11/1/53	Ohio State
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	235	6	4/3/53	Oregon
51	Golic, Bob	LB	6-2	240	3	10/26/57	Notre Dame
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	208	7	7/24/53	Kansas State
71	Hamilton, Ray	NT	6-1	245	9	1/20/51	Oklahoma
73	Hannah, John	G	6-3	265	9	4/4/51	Alabama
80	Hasselbeck, Don	TE	6-7	245	5	4/1/55	Colorado

59	Hawkins, Mike	LB	6-2	232	4	11/29/55	Texas A&I
40	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	195	6	7/1/53	Arizona State
6	Hubach, Mike	P	5-10	185	2	1/26/58	Kansas
23	Ivory, Horace	RB	6-0	198	5	8/8/54	Oklahoma
29	Jackson, Harold	WR	5-10	175	14	1/6/46	Jackson State
38	James, Roland	CB-S	6-2	189	2	2/6/58	Tennessee
32	Johnson, Andy	RB	6-0	204	7	10/18/52	Georgia
74	Jordan, Shelly	T	6-7	260	6	1/23/52	Washington, Mo.
52	King, Steve	LB	6-4	230	9	6/10/51	Tulsa
67	Lenkatis, Bill	C	6-4	235	14	6/30/46	Penn State
72	Lunsford, Mel	DE	6-3	260	9	6/13/50	Central State, Ohio
53	Matthews, Bill	LB	6-2	235	4	3/12/56	South Dakota State
76	McDougald, Doug	DE	6-5	271	2	2/6/57	Virginia Tech
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-4	250	11	1/18/49	Bishop
50	McGrew, Larry	LB	6-4	231	2	7/23/57	Southern California
66	McMichael, Steve	NT	6-1	245	2	10/17/57	Texas
88	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-10	180	5	2/17/55	Tennessee
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	230	8	4/26/51	North Dakota State
1	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1	194	8	9/1/52	Wichita State
88	Pennywell, Carlos	WR	6-2	180	4	3/18/56	Grambling
77	Puetz, Garry	T	6-4	265	8	3/14/52	Valparaiso
25	Sanford, Rick	S	6-1	192	3	1/9/57	South Carolina
	Schindler, Steve	G	6-3	250	3	7/24/54	Boston College
56	Shoate, Rod	LB	6-1	215	6	4/26/53	Oklahoma
1	Smith, John	K	6-0	185	8	12/30/49	Southampton, Eng.
31	Stewart, Jim	CB	5-11	194	3	10/15/54	Tulsa
30	Tatupu, Mose	RB	6-0	225	4	4/26/55	Southern California
83	Westbrook, Don	WR	5-10	184	5	11/1/52	Nebraska
62	Wheeler, Dwight	T	6-3	255	3	1/13/55	Tennessee State
54	Zamberlin, John	LB	6-2	230	2	2/13/56	Pacific Lutheran

Running backs—They were rarely exciting, but they were ruggedly persistent, and as a result they finished ahead of 20 other teams in rushing yardage last year. The team average gain per carry was an unimpressive 3.8 yards, but they still managed to squeeze 19 touchdowns out of it.

The Patriots had a two-man work crew last season, with rookie Vagas Ferguson carrying 211 yards and veteran Don Calhoun 200 times. The next-busiest Patriot had only 42 carries. Ferguson had an outstanding rookie season, gaining 818 yards, and is likely to establish himself quickly as the finest halfback in team history. In previous years, the Pats have been a fullback-oriented team, taking advantage of the talents of Sam Cunningham and, before him, Jim Nance.

Calhoun, who had nine of the Patriots' rushing TDs in 1980, benefited from getting more work than ever before in his seven-year career. He's no Earl Campbell, but he's more than adequate. The second-stringers are Horace Ivory (halfback) and Mosi Tatupu (fullback), neither of whom averaged three yards per carry last year. Versatile veteran Andy Johnson, who has been all but forgotten by coach Ron Erhardt, shouldn't have been.

Receivers—Russ Francis long has been ballyhooed as the best tight end in football, and in terms of talent, perhaps he is. But he has yet to be named All-Pro. If Francis gets a little too much credit, the same can't be said of wide receiver Harold Jackson, who opens the season with 532 career catches, more than any other active catcher in the league. His figures last season included 35 receptions for a 21.1 yard average. In his 13th season, the amazing veteran had five TD receptions.

Even more dangerous is the other wide receiver, Stanley Morgan, whose per catch average was 22 yards. Together, he and Jackson give the Patriots a one-two deep threat that compares favorably with the tandems in Pittsburgh and San Diego. Francis, who has marvelous talent, had the best year of his career in 1980 (41 catches, eight touchdowns), and, if he can stay healthy, will be impossible to stop. The second unit (Don Hasselbeck, Don Westbrook, Carlos Pennywell) is seldom used, but considering the quality of the starters, that's understandable.

Offensive line—The next time you're watching the Patriots in one of those lopsided games, forget about everybody else and just focus on No. 73 at left guard, John Hannah. Not only is the nine-year veteran the best on the Patriots, but he is one of the best offensive linemen in the history of the NFL. He's so good that he rarely has to resort to holding, according to the defensive tackles who play



No. 40 Mike Haynes

against him.

Rookie Stan Holloway is expected to become another super hero on the Patriots' line, taking over one of the tackle spots, with either Dwight Wheeler or Shelby Jordan surviving at the other side. Wheeler is the one likely to make it, based on his great improvement during 1980. Bob Cryder will hold the guard spot opposite Hannah, and centers Bill Lenkaitis and Pete Brock alternate by quarters. The new England line, which was good last year (only 25 QB sacks were permitted), will be even better in 1981.

DEFENSE

Line—Like so many other teams, the Patriots let the down and distance dictate their defensive lineup. Mel Lunsford, Julius Adams, Tony McGee, and Doug McDougald shuffle in and out at defensive end, while Ray Hamilton, Richard Bishop, and Steve McMichael do business at the nose tackle spot. Adams and McGee are the best pass rushers, but the two

to watch for future development are McMichael and McDougald, both rookies last season. Several of the Patriot linemen are getting older, and McMichael and McDougald could become stars.

Linebackers—Ideally, the defensive linemen knock down the interference and then the linebackers make the tackles at the line of scrimmage. The New England Patriots do it ideally. The top four tacklers on the team last season happened to be the four starting linebackers led, of course, by Pro Bowler Steve Nelson. Once the most unsung player in the league, Nelson no longer is unsung, he's widely respected throughout the NFL. Rod Shoate has developed nicely at one of the outside linebacker positions, and Mike Hawkins and John Zamberlin have set up shop at the other two spots. They play well, but could find themselves pushed for jobs by a pair of second year men—Bob Golic, who has an eye on Zamberlin's inside linebacker post, and Larry McGrew, who figures in behind Hawkins. There are no weak spots in the Pats' linebacker corps, and it might become stronger yet.

Secondary—The Patriots have tried to corner the market on the top pass defenders, using five first round draft picks in the past six years to choose cornerbacks or safeties. It should then come as no surprise that the New England secondary is highly capable, with a first round draft pick at every position and another one on the bench. Right corner Mike Haynes, who has been to the Pro Bowl in each of his five seasons, is the most celebrated of the group, but he may no longer be the best. By late last season, the most consistent performance was coming from Raymond Claybourn. The safeties, Tim Fox and Rick Sanford, or Roland James, are dependable. Overall, this easily could be the best secondary in the business. Given the benefit of a better pass rush, they could come up with more impressive interception totals.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The placekicker, John Smith (allegedly his real name), is as good as any, leading the NFL in scoring last season with 129 points. Within 40 yards, he's almost perfect (23 of 27 last season). Not bad for a bloke who came from England to teach the colonists how to play soccer. Now he's teaching them to play football.

Kickoff returner Horace Ivory (27.6 yards per return) was the best in the NFL last season, and punt returner Roland James is adequate. Punter Mike Hubach, the least effective in the NFL last season (38.0 yards) may be seeking another line of employment.



THE DRAFT

The Pats had hoped to get a dominating defensive lineman in the draft, but when they found none was available, settled for a dominating offensive lineman, one that many scouts rated the best of the year. Stan Holloway, a standout from Stanford, will give the Pats superb blocking as long as his sometimes-cranky knees hold up. It's only a matter of time, probably very little time, until the 280-pounder claims one of the tackle spots for himself.

The rest of the New England draft brought some surprises, including second-rounder Anthony Collins, a running back from East Carolina, who was taken on the second round and is likely to be used as a punt returner and occasional relief man for Vagas Ferguson. Don Blackmon, an aggressive linebacker who needs to learn the finer points of pass defense, and defensive end Steve Clark, who improved vastly his senior season, are other rookies worth watching.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Brian Holloway	19	OT	Stanford
2.	Anthony Collins	47	RB	East Carolina
3.	(Choice to Minnesota)			
4.	Don Blackmon	102	LB	Tulsa
5.	Steve Clark	130	DE	Kansas State
6.	Don Woolen	157	OG	North Carolina
7.	Ken Toler	185	WR	Mississippi
8.	(From New Orleans) Ken Nabor	194	P-PK	Stanford
9.	Lin Dawson	212	TE	North Carolina State
10.	(Choice to Detroit)			
11.	Brian Buckley	295	QB	Harvard
12.	Cris Crispy	323	QB	Princeton

Miami DOLPHINS



1980 RESULTS: WON 8 LOST 8

Miami.....	7	at Buffalo.....	17
at Miami.....	17	Cincinnati.....	16
Miami.....	20	at Atlanta.....	17
at Miami.....	21	New Orleans.....	16
at Miami.....	17	Baltimore.....	30
Miami.....	0	at New England.....	34
at Miami.....	17	Buffalo.....	14
Miami.....	14	at New York Jets.....	17
Miami.....	10	at Oakland.....	16
Miami.....	35	at Los Angeles.....	14
at Miami.....	17	San Francisco.....	13
at Miami.....	24	San Diego (OT).....	27
Miami.....	10	at Pittsburgh.....	23
at Miami.....	16	New England (OT).....	13
Miami.....	24	at Baltimore.....	14
at Miami.....	17	New York Jets.....	24
266		305	

No. 89 Nat Moore

Don Shula is doing it again. It was a decade ago that he built a superb Miami team that terrorized the NFL, and he's doing it again. No, the 1981 Dolphins aren't ready to go undefeated, and the odds are against them for making the playoffs. But position by position, Shula is putting together an impressive cast of youngsters who will become an excellent team.

Miami hasn't had a playoff victory since 1973, but the Dolphins have finished either first or second in their division in eight of the past 11 years, so it isn't as if they had collapsed to the level of pathetic weaklings. Last season was one of their worst, when the record was 8-8, but it was a year that provided far more danger signs for the opposition than for the Dolphins.

For the fourth consecutive year, the defense was among the top three in the AFC in fewest points allowed, and the offense, which featured eight starters with three years (or less) experience, made the major transition from a veteran quarterback to a rookie. It wasn't an easy season; the Dolphins were 26th in the league in offense and had to rely on kicker Uwe von Schamann for three game-winners. But things took a definite upturn late in the year when the youngest team ever under Shula's command won its return matches against division foes Buffalo, New England, and Baltimore.

This season figures to be another one of steady growth, and Shula is likely to get the seven victories he needs to reach the 200-win mark. It's likely to be another season of a tough defense keeping games close, hoping the usually-conservative Miami offense can punch over a few points while overcoming its growing pains.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—David Woodley was a long shot, the 214th player taken in the draft, when the season opened. By the fourth game of the season, he was the starting quarterback. By the end of the season, his teammates were voting him the Miami Dolphins' most valuable player. He had a 5-5 record as a starter, but four of those five losses were by seven points or less.

Primarily a running quarterback at LSU, Woodley completed 53.8 percent of his passes as a rookie, sticking mostly to a short passing game. As he continues to develop and to become more adept at unraveling the mysteries of opposing defenses, the bombs will come. His arm is adequate.

Bob Griese and Don Strock, who held the other QB spots on the Miami roster, could both be ex-Dolphins by the start of the sea-

Coaches: Don Shula, Bill Arnsparger, Steve Crosby, Wally English, Tom Keane, John Sandusky, Mike Scarry, Carl Taseff

MIAMI DOLPHINS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
43	Allen, Jeff	CB	5-11	185	2	7/18/57	California-Davis
88	Bailey, Elmer	WR	6-0	195	2	12/13/57	Minnesota
78	Barisich, Carl	DT	6-4	255	9	7/12/51	Princeton
70	Barnett, Bill	DE	6-4	255	2	5/10/56	Nebraska
23	Baumhower, Bob	DT	6-5	260	5	8/4/55	Alabama
44	Beaudoin, Doug	S	6-1	190	6	5/15/54	Minnesota
34	Bennett, Woody	FB	6-2	222	3	3/24/55	Miami
46	Bessilleu, Don	S	6-1	200	3	5/4/56	Georgia Tech
75	Bettlers, Doug	DE	6-7	260	4	6/11/58	Nevada-Reno
47	Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	183	3	2/23/57	Texas
58	Bokamper, Kim	LB	6-6	247	5	9/25/54	San Jose State
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	229	5	1/1/55	Ohio State
81	Cafalo, Jimmy	WR	5-11	188	4	10/6/56	Penn State
51	Chambers, Rusty	LB	6-1	220	7	11/10/53	Tulane
83	Dan Herder, Vern	DE	6-6	252	11	11/28/48	Central College, Iowa
63	Dennard, Mark	C	6-1	252	3	11/2/56	Texas A&M
61	Dornbrook, Thom	C-G	6-2	256	3	12/1/56	Kentucky
77	DuBe, A. J.	DE-LB	6-4	252	5	11/27/55	Louisiana State
35	Giaguinto, Nick	RB	5-11	204	2	4/4/55	Connecticut
79	Giesler, Jon	T	6-4	260	3	12/23/56	Michigan
50	Gordon, Larry	LB	6-4	230	6	7/8/54	Arizona State

74	Green, Cleveland	T	6-3	265	3	9/11/57	Southern
12	Griese, Bob	QB	6-1	190	15	2/3/45	Purdue
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-4	230	2	6/1/58	Arizona State
82	Harris, Durlf	WR	5-11	184	6	11/27/54	New Mexico State
36	Howell, Steve	FB	6-2	230	3	12/20/56	Baylor
	Johnson, Ken	RB	6-2	220	2	11/27/56	Miami
37	Kozlowski, Mike	S	6-0	197	2	2/24/56	Colorado
67	Kuschenberg, Bob	G-T	6-2	255	12	10/14/47	Notre Dame
88	Laakso, Eric	T-G	6-4	265	4	11/29/56	Tulane
86	Lee, Ronnie	TE	6-3	235	3	12/24/56	Baylor
28	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	192	2	5/6/56	Alabama
89	Minora, Nat	WR	5-9	188	8	9/19/51	Florida
31	Moser, Rick	RB	6-0	210	4	12/18/56	Rhode Island
22	Nathan, Tony	RB-KR	6-0	206	3	12/14/56	Jackson State
64	Newman, Ed	G	6-2	255	9	6/4/51	Duke
54	Ortega, Ralph	LB	6-2	225	7	7/6/53	Florida
55	Rhane, Earnest	LB	6-2	224	6	8/20/53	Henderson State
4	Roberts, George	P	6-0	184	4	6/10/55	Virginia Tech
38	Robiskie, Terry	FB	6-1	210	5	11/12/54	Louisiana State
80	Rose, Joe	TE	6-3	225	2	6/24/57	California
59	Shall, Steve	LB	6-1	218	2	3/27/58	William & Mary
48	Small, Gerald	CB	5-11	192	4	8/10/56	San Jose State
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	255	2	11/20/57	Alabama
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	220	8	11/27/50	Virginia Tech
45	Taylor, Ed	CB	6-0	175	7	5/13/53	Memphis State
60	Toews, Jeff	G	6-3	265	3	11/4/57	Washington
56	Towle, Steve	LB	6-2	230	7	10/23/53	Kansas
5	Von Schamann, Uwe	K	6-0	183	3	4/23/56	Oklahoma
24	Williams, Dalvin	RB	6-0	200	8	4/17/51	Kansas
16	Woodley, David	QB	6-2	196	2	10/25/58	Louisiana State

son. Griese, plagued by injuries in recent seasons, could opt for retirement; Strock, who never has managed to capture and hold the first-string job, could be with another team.

Running backs—They were unimpressive in every respect last season, and this is one of the areas where major improvement must be made. The 1980 Dolphins averaged only 117 yards rushing per game, the lowest in their years under Shula, and the per-carry average of 3.8 yards was among the worst in the league. Part of the problem was the absence of Larry Csonka, who retired before the start of the season, leaving a void at fullback and costing the Dolphins effectiveness in short-yardage situations. Another important part of the problem was the offensive line. When the unit began to block better late in the season, the yardage totals began improving.

The Dolphins have at least two runners—Tony Nathan and David Overstreet—with exciting potential. Nathan averaged 5.5 yards on 60 carries last season and was also the team's leading receiver (57 catches). Overstreet, Miami's No. 1 draft choice, was underpublicized at Oklahoma but may make up for that now. Delvin Williams, troubled with injuries the past two years, faces what is likely the most important year of his career.

The leading fullback candidate is Andra Franklin, a second-round draft pick last April. Steve Howell and Woody Bennett are other possibilities.

Receivers—Nat Moore and Duriel Harris can be as dangerous as the man throwing the ball permits them to be. Each of them has what's needed to be outstanding deep threats, and their statistics would be more impressive if the Dolphins opened up the passing game. Jimmy Cefalo is touted as being from the Howard Twilley mold; Elmer Bailey, a rookie last season, could develop into a fine receiver.

Another second-year man, Joe Rose, heads the list of tight end candidates that includes Bruce Hardy and Ronnie Lee.

Offensive line—With third year man Jon Giesler at one tackle spot and four-year vet Eric Laakso moved in at the other spot, the Dolphins are more settled at the tackle positions than they have been in several years.

Veterans Bob Kuechenberg and Ed Newman are dependable for good work at the guard spots, but an interesting battle for the center position could develop between incumbent starter Mark Dennard and second-year man Dwight Stephenson, a second-round draft pick. With Jeff Toews and Cleveland Green around to provide depth, the Dolphin front wall promises to be a good one. It's only a matter of time.



No. 22 Tony Nathan

DEFENSE

Line—Bob Baumhower is one of the best nose tackles in the league, and his running mates at the defensive end spots aren't bad, either. Iron man Vern Den Herder has been a fixture at left end for nearly a decade, and Doug Betters has developed so well at the other end that the Dolphins could afford to move A. J. Duhe to a linebacker spot. One area in which the Dolphins must gain improvement this year is the pass rush; they were 25th in the league in sacks last season. Perhaps this year they'll be more of a gambling, hard-charging unit, as the starters are capable of being if given the opportunity. The subs, veteran tackle Bill Barisich and young end Bill Barnett, are solid.

Linebackers—Shula has a habit of taking outstanding defensive linemen and converting them to linebacker, a move that has worked extremely well in the cases of Kim Bokamper and A. J. Duhe. Linebackers are the key to Miami's style of defense, and both Bokamper and Duhe have the size and quickness to be superb. Bokamper was a Pro Bowler two years ago, but suffered a knee injury in the season finale of 1980, requiring post-season surgery. Duhe, a 255-pounder, has the physical talent to become an extremely punishing force in the middle of the defense.

Larry Gordon, another linebacker with exceptional ability, was the subject of numerous off-season trade rumors. He has All-Pro potential, not tapped in five years.

Whether Gordon stays or goes, a spot will be found somewhere for Bob Brudzinski, an extremely capable linebacker who walked out on the Rams last season and was traded to Miami this past spring. He'll move ahead of other candidates, including Rusty Chambers, Ralph Ortega, Steve Towle and Earnest Rhone. Chambers has been first or second in tackles each of the past three years.

Secondary—They're young, but already they're good. Cornerback Don McNeal, who missed the late part of the 1980 season, drew raves throughout his rookie year. Exceptionally instinctive, he was named to every All-Rookie team and is likely to be a Dolphin prize for many years. Another youngster drawing plaudits has been free safety Don Bessillieu, who has staked his claim to the free safety spot. Strong safety will be handled by Glenn Blackwood, who did good work last season after replacing Tim Foley (now retired).

The corner opposite McNeal belongs to Gerald Small, a man with a knack for making the big play. Small, the team leader with seven interceptions last season, made most of his thefts within 10 yards of the Miami end zone.

Mike Kozlowski, Doug Beaudoin, and Ed Taylor are the backups.

SPECIAL TEAMS

They don't ask Uwe von Schamann to try many long ones (only eight attempts of 40 yards or more last season), and he had only two field goals of more than 39 yards in 1980. He's cool under pressure, though, providing the Dolphins with three game-winners last year. He's also dependable from close range.

Even better than von Schamann is punter George Roberts, whose 1980 average of 42.6 yards was the best in Dolphin history.

Kickoff returner Don Bessillieu had an average return of 22.3 yards last season, but Tony Nathan's 7.7 average on punt returns could stand improvement.



THE DRAFT

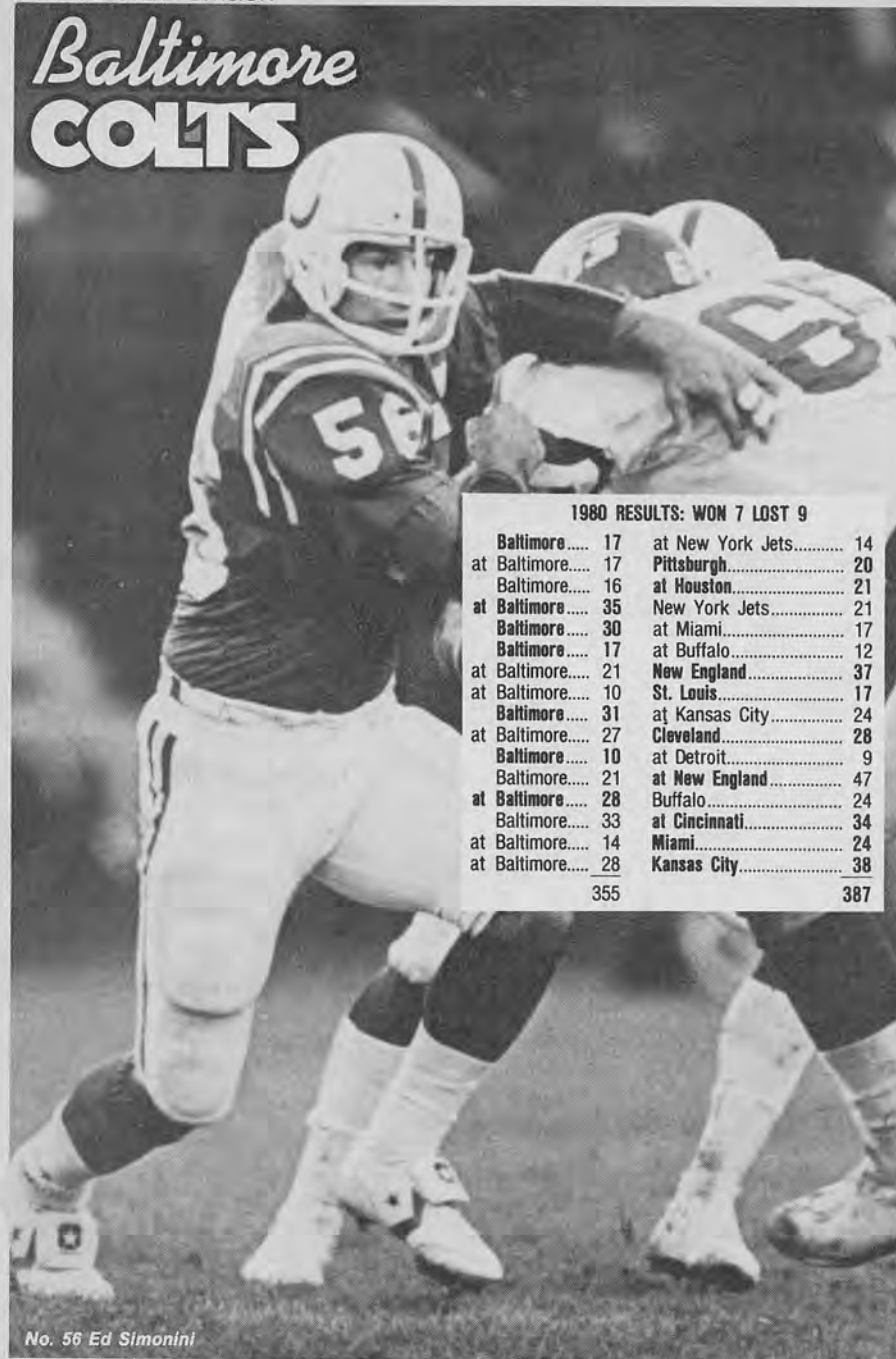
Miami used the first and second rounds to build a ground attack, making Oklahoma speedster David Overstreet the 13th pick in the first round and Nebraska bulldozer Andra Franklin a second round selection. Although little-publicized in college, Overstreet could become a great player. Thompson, strictly a power man with little breakaway ability, is the classic fullback. Wide receiver Sam Greene, a fourth rounder, could be a fine one if Shula succeeds in disciplining him a bit. Another fourth rounder, quarterback Brad Wright, is an interesting gamble for the future.

Hopeful of adding depth at defensive end, where Den Herder is getting a bit long in the tooth, the Dolphins took Ken Poole in the fifth round and Mack Moore in the sixth, neither of them generally listed among the top prospects.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	David Overstreet	13	RB	Oklahoma
2.	Andra Franklin	56	LB	Nebraska
3.	Sam Greene	84	WR	Nevada-Las Vegas
4.	Brad Wright	96	QB	New Mexico
5.	Ken Poole	126	DE	Northeast Louisiana
6.	Mack Moore	152	DE	Texas A&M
7.	William Judson	206	DB	South Carolina State
8.	John Noonan	235	WR	Nebraska
9.	Steve Folsom	251	TE	Utah
10.	Jim Janson	291	CB	Boston U.
11.	John Alford	318	DT	South Carolina State

Baltimore COLTS



No. 56 Ed Simonini

1980 RESULTS: WON 7 LOST 9

Baltimore.....	17	at New York Jets.....	14
at Baltimore.....	17	Pittsburgh.....	20
Baltimore.....	16	at Houston.....	21
at Baltimore.....	35	New York Jets.....	21
Baltimore.....	30	at Miami.....	17
Baltimore.....	17	at Buffalo.....	12
at Baltimore.....	21	New England.....	37
at Baltimore.....	10	St. Louis.....	17
Baltimore.....	31	at Kansas City.....	24
at Baltimore.....	27	Cleveland.....	28
Baltimore.....	10	at Detroit.....	9
Baltimore.....	21	at New England.....	47
at Baltimore.....	28	Buffalo.....	24
Baltimore.....	33	at Cincinnati.....	34
at Baltimore.....	14	Miami.....	24
at Baltimore.....	28	Kansas City.....	38
355		387	

Considering the battles that go on within this organization, the Colts could hardly stand to face stiff opposition on their schedule. But they don't have any choice. The NFL's scheduling formula has saddled the Colts with the league's toughest schedule. Of Baltimore's 16 games, eight will be against teams that won 10 or more games in the 1980 season.

It's a schedule the Colts might have a chance of handling if they ever stop the bickering and bitterness that has existed between the players and front office for several seasons. The root of the conflict is money; the players believe that management's salary offers are unreasonably small. Several top players have been lost by this franchise in recent years, and a key indicator whether that will change will be whether the Colts can coax Bert Jones, the star of the team, to sign a new contract before the season ends or whether he will be a free agent. Jones is a strong team leader, and if he's unhappy, a significant part of the roster is likely to be unhappy, too.

It would be interesting to see what this team could do if it solved its off-the-field problems and concentrated on football. That hasn't happened for the past four years, though, when the Colts have been anxious to quit in the late stages of the season. Baltimore's record for December over the past four seasons has been 2-10.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Baltimore's most important accomplishment of 1980 was getting through most of the season without losing Bert Jones to serious injury. He missed most of the two previous seasons with serious shoulder injuries, two seasons in which Baltimore finished last after being first all three years prior. Although he was healthy in 1980, Jones became the target of some Baltimore boo-birds who mistakenly blamed him for the team's inability to move back to the top. Despite the two-year layoff, Jones had a good season, making the Colts sixth in the league in touchdowns. Even though he missed one game with an injury, he set personal records for completions (248) and yardage (3134).

Jones still is one of the most feared battlers in the business, and the 1981 season could be his greatest ever because he's now armed with more outstanding weapons in wide receiver and running back positions than ever before.

If Jones is sidelined, the Colts have Greg Landry, a wily 14-year veteran who's one of the most reliable relief tossers in the league.

Running backs—His rushing yardage was

Coaches: Mike McCormack, Dick Bielski, George Boutsells, John Idzik, Ed Khayat, John Symank, Joe Vitt, Chuck Weber, Ray Wietcha.

BALTIMORE COLTS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
26	Anderson, Kim	QB	5-11	182	2	7/19/57	Arizona State
41	Bailey, Mark	RB	6-4	237	4	12/13/54	Cal State-Long Beach
63	Barnes, Mike	DT	6-6	251	9	12/24/50	Miami
44	Blackwood, Lyle	S	6-1	188	9	5/2/51	Texas Christian
4	Bragg, Mike	P	5-11	186	14	9/26/46	Richmond
47	Brazier, Larry	CB	6-0	195	3	9/25/54	Southern California
84	Burke, Randy	WR	6-2	190	4	5/26/55	Kentucky
80	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	190	2	5/29/56	Southern California
81	Carr, Roger	WR	6-2	193	8	7/1/52	Louisiana Tech
72	Cook, Fred	DE	6-4	252	8	4/15/52	Southern Mississippi
87	De Roo, Brian	WR	6-3	190	3	4/25/56	Redlands
27	Dickey, Curtis	RB	6-0	201	2	11/27/56	Texas A&M
31	Dixon, Zachary	RB	6-0	200	2	3/5/56	Temple
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	252	2	5/18/58	Georgia
76	Ehrmann, Joe	DT	6-4	252	9	3/29/49	Syracuse
73	Fernandes, Ron	DE	6-5	256	6	9/11/51	Eastern Michigan
79	Fields, Greg	DE	6-7	262	3	1/23/55	Grambling
66	Foot, Chris	C	6-3	250	2	12/2/56	Southern California

38	Franklin, Cleveland	FB	6-1	212	4	4/24/55	Baylor
29	Garry, Ben	RB	6-0	223	3	2/11/56	Southern Mississippi
25	Glasgow, Nesby	S-KR	5-10	185	3	4/15/57	Washington
69	Griffin, Wade	T	6-5	245	5	8/7/54	Mississippi
68	Hart, Jeff	T	6-5	265	5	9/10/53	Oregon State
42	Hatchett, Derrick	CB	5-11	180	2	8/14/58	Texas
58	Helmkreiter, Steve	LB	6-2	226	2	6/9/57	Notre Dame
62	Huff, Ken	G	6-4	253	7	2/21/53	North Carolina
90	Johnson, Gary Don	OT	6-4	283	2	6/28/56	Baylor
7	Jones, Bert	QB	6-3	209	5	9/7/51	Louisiana State
51	Jones, Ricky	LB	6-1	215	5	3/3/55	Tuskegee
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	238	3	3/7/57	Alabama
75	Kunz, George	T	6-5	275	11	7/5/47	Notre Dame
40	Laird, Bruce	S	6-1	194	10	5/23/50	American International
11	Landry, Greg	QB	6-4	210	14	12/18/46	Massachusetts
86	McCall, Reese	TE	6-7	235	4	6/16/56	Auburn
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6-1	211	11	5/12/49	North Carolina
57	Mendenhall, Ken	C	6-3	238	11	8/11/48	Oklahoma
5	Mike-Mayer, Steve	K	6-0	180	7	8/8/47	Maryland
88	Orvis, Herb	DE	6-4	255	10	10/17/46	Colorado
71	Ozowski, Mike	DE	6-5	247	4	9/24/55	Virginia
37	Pinkney, Reggie	S	5-11	187	5	5/27/55	East Carolina
61	Pratt, Bob	G	6-4	243	8	5/25/51	North Carolina
54	Shiver, Sanders	LB	6-2	228	6	2/14/55	Carson-Newman
45	Siani, Mike	WR	6-2	195	5	5/27/50	Villanova
56	Simonini, Ed	LB	6-0	206	6	2/2/55	Texas A&M
39	Sims, Marvlin	FB	6-4	237	2	6/18/57	Clemson
52	Smith, Ed	LB	6-2	220	2	5/18/57	Vanderbilt
20	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	179	6	9/24/53	Oklahoma



No. 11, Greg Landry

second only to Earl Campbell in Southwest Conference history, but the Baltimore scouts thought they saw a wide receiver when they looked at Curtis Dickey. A contract dispute kept him out of much of his rookie training camp, however, and by the time Dickey arrived, coach Mike McCormack decided it was too late to try to teach the young man with the awesome speed a new position. It may be the wisest decision of McCormack's career. Despite the fact that he didn't get his first start until the second half of the season, Dickey rushed for 800 yards, (4.5 yards per carry) and led the AFC with 13 touchdowns. The former Texas A&M sprint champ could be the fastest man ever in the NFL. Without doubt, he's Baltimore's best breakaway threat since Lenny Moore.

Randy McMillan, the rookie from Pitt, will move in as the starting fullback, giving Baltimore its most talented rushing combination in more than 20 years. Colt fullbacks have been hardly memorable since the Alan Ameche days. With the departure of Joe Washington, experienced depth is minimal, except for third-down specialist Don McCauley, one of the best at what he does. Cleveland Franklin, Marvin Sims and Mark Bailey are candidates for the backup roles.

Receivers—Roger Carr, the other half of



No. 63 Mike Barnes

Baltimore's "Louisiana Connection," had vowed never to play for the Colts again. But he ended a brief holdout and proceeded to have a banner season, catching 61 passes for 924 yards, the most of any AFC receiver outside San Diego and Seattle.

Carr could be even better this season because of the added help he figures to get from the other side. Ray Butler caught 34 passes, more than any other rookie NFL receiver in 1980, and he should be better now after having a year to learn how to find the open spots in zone defenses. A fourth-round draft choice from Southern Cal, he has the look of a steal. The benchmen are Randy Burke, Brian DeRoo, and Mike Siani.

Tight end will continue to be a problem unless lanky Reese McCall, a first-round pick four years ago, gains consistency.

Offensive line—Solid at four spots, but that fifth one, the right tackle position, has been weak for three years, and must be plugged if the Colts are to return to the days when they led the league in yardage and scoring.

Wade Griffin seems only a short step from stardom after becoming an excellent left tackle, and left guard Bob Pratt continues to be one of the unheralded standouts in the NFL. The problems are on the right side of the line. Guard Ken Huff does good work, but neither

Jeff Hart nor George Kunz could get the job done consistently at tackle last season. Perhaps Tim Foley or Jim Moore, rookies who spent 1980 on the injured reserve list, can move up. Center Ken Mendenhall, a good one for 10 years, will have to fight off second-year man Ray Donaldson.

DEFENSE

Line—The Colts hope that first-round draft pick Donnell Thompson and at least one other rookie, perhaps Bubba Green or Hosea Taylor, can help rejuvenate the defensive line. Veterans Fred Cook and Joe Ehrmann were promised they'd be traded, leaving a cast of Mike Barnes, Mike Ozdowski, Herb Orvis, Greg Fields and Gary Johnson as the only returning veterans. Barnes still is a top quality tackle; Ozdowski is a battler at right end. The days of the majestic Sack Pack, unfortunately, are gone.

Linebackers—Ed Simonini, whose weight fluctuates between 205 and 210 pounds depending on how much rich food he has had, has led the Colts in tackles for four consecutive years. Not bad for a guy who's too small for this type of work. He might be even better in the 3-4 alignment the Colts are expected to use this season. The other three starters will be outside linebackers Sanders Shiver and Mike Woods, with Barry Krauss on the inside. All three are physical supermen, and if they ever play up to their awesome potential, the Colt linebacker corps could be the most fearsome in football. Steve Heimkreiter and Ed Smith provide depth.

Secondary—Once the NFL's favorite dartboard, the Baltimore secondary has now improved sharply. Bruce Laird is one of the best in the league at the strong safety position, and Nesby Glasgow has developed into a better-than-average free safety. Stardom is expected for left corner Derrick Hatchett, who had an excellent rookie season. The problem spot continues to be right corner, where Larry Braziel has been targeted mercilessly for bombing raids. Part of his trouble stems from inadequate linebacker help on his side. Kim Anderson is the team's fifth defensive back.

The Colts were 21st in pass defense last year, not a true reflection of the secondary's ability. Linebacker help was spotty, at best, and the pass rush was even less than that.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Help wanted. Neither placekicker Steve Mike-Mayer nor punter Mike Bragg did much in 1980 to warrant return invitations. Nesby Glasgow is adequate as a kickoff returner but doesn't get far with punt returns.



THE DRAFT

Although the Colts' most serious deficiencies were on defense last year, they used three of their first four draft selections for offensive help. The prize was fullback Randy (Big Mac Attack) McMillan, the Pitt fullback whose style and potential are being compared to Franco Harris. Baltimore has lacked a first-rate fullback for years, and McMillan should add some thunder to the lightning provided by Curtis Dickey and Bert Jones. Later efforts to gain help for the offense were third round pick Randy Van Divier, an aircraft carrier-sized tackle who might put some muscle into the run blocking on the right side of the line, and fifth rounder Tim Sherwin, a tight end who'll be efficient, though not spectacular.

The defense should benefit from the addition of Donnell Thompson, a first rounder who's figured to fill the left end spot, and perhaps Bubba Green, a tackle whose college career was marred by knee injuries.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Randy McMillan (From Minnesota)	12	RB	Pittsburgh
1.	Donnell Thompson (Choice to Minnesota)	18	DT	North Carolina
2.	Randy Van Divier (Choice to Minnesota)	60	OT	Washington
3.	Tim Sherwin (Choice to Minnesota)	94	TE	Boston College
5.	Anthony (Bubba) Green	149	DT	North Carolina State
6.	Udo Arii	178	PK	Clemson
7.	Ken Sifton	204	DB	Oklahoma
8.	(From Philadelphia)			
	Hosea Taylor	220	DT	Houston
9.	Tim Gooch	233	DT	Kentucky
10.	(From San Francisco)			
	Bragg Barkan	256	LB	Northern Arizona
10.	Trant Bryant	259	DB	Arkansas
11.	Helden Smith	288	WR	California
12.	Eric Scoggins	315	LB	Southern California

New York JETS

1980 RESULTS: WON 4 LOST 12

at New York.... 14	Baltimore..... 17
New York.... 10	at Buffalo..... 20
at New York.... 27	San Francisco..... 37
New York.... 21	at Baltimore..... 35
at New York.... 11	New England..... 21
New York.... 14	at Atlanta..... 7
at New York.... 17	Seattle..... 27
at New York.... 17	Miami..... 14
New York.... 21	at New England..... 34
at New York.... 24	Buffalo..... 31
New York.... 24	at Denver..... 31
at New York.... 31	Houston (OT)..... 28
New York.... 13	at Los Angeles..... 38
New York.... 14	at Cleveland..... 17
at New York.... 20	New Orleans..... 21
New York.... 24	at Miami..... 17
302	395

No. 99 Mark Gastineau

The biggest upset of the 1981 season already has occurred: Walt Michaels is back as head coach of the Jets. After winning only four games with a team some had touted as potential Super Bowl champions last season, Michaels had seemed a sure bet for the unemployment line. However, two things helped save the head coach his job. One was the Jets' lack of experience; the other was their lack of talent. The New York brass apparently

decided that the losses weren't Michaels' fault, that perhaps no one could win with this outfit.

Michaels bruised some tender egos with his outspoken criticism of some of his players, but primarily he proved that he was an honest man.

The Jets' hierarchy has evidenced some unbelievably faulty player evaluation for the past decade, and as a result the Jets haven't

had a winning season since the 1960s. It's been a long, dry spell, and there are no guarantees that it'll end any time soon. Recent drafts have brought New York some talented players, but how long it will take the team to accumulate enough talent to become a contender is open to question.

OFFENSE

Quarterback—The management's deci-

Coaches: Walt Michaels, Billy Baird, Ralph Baker, Bob Fry, Joe Gardi, Bob Ledbetter, Pete McCulley, Larry Pasquale, Dan Sekanovich, Joe Walton.

NEW YORK JETS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	255	5	6/17/55	Louisiana State
83	Barkum, Jerome	TE	6-4	225	10	7/18/50	Jackson State
30	Batton, Bobby	RB	5-11	190	2	3/17/57	Nevada-Las Vegas
64	Bingham, Guy	C-T	6-3	255	2	2/25/58	Montana
54	Blinka, Stan	LB	6-2	230	3	4/29/57	Sam Houston State
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3	232	6	6/20/54	Penn State
55	Crosby, Ron	LB	6-3	222	4	3/2/55	Penn State
68	Cunningham, Eric	G	6-2	257	3	3/16/57	Penn State
84	Darby, Paul	WR	5-10	192	3	10/22/58	Southwest Texas State
25	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10	215	5	5/24/55	Purdue
26	Dykes, Donald	CB	5-11	180	3	8/24/55	Southwest Louisiana
65	Fields, Joe	C	6-2	253	7	11/14/53	Widener
81	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	6-1	180	4	5/24/55	Florida
21	Gaines, Clark	RB	6-1	204	6	2/1/54	Wake Forest
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	280	3	11/20/58	East Central, Okla.
90	Godfrey, Chris	DT-DE	6-3	250	2	5/17/58	Michigan
42	Harper, Bruce	RB-KR	5-8	177	5	6/20/55	Kutztown State
47	Holmes, Jerry	CB-S	6-2	175	2	12/22/57	West Virginia
40	Jackson, Bobby	CB	5-10	175	4	12/23/56	Florida State

27	Johnson, Jesse	CB-S	6-3	185	2	8/23/57	Colorado
69	Jones, Bobby	WR	5-11	180	4	7/12/55	No college
80	Jones, Lam	WR	5-11	180	2	4/4/58	Texas
73	Klecko, Joe	DE	6-3	265	5	10/15/53	Temple
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	195	8	3/19/51	St. Louis
24	Lewis, Kenny	RB	6-0	190	2	10/2/57	Virginia Tech
33	Long, Kevin	FB	6-1	218	5	1/20/55	South Carolina
29	Lynn, Johnny	CB	6-0	190	2	12/19/56	UCLA
93	Lyons, Marty	DT	6-5	260	3	1/15/57	Alabama
53	McKibben, Mike	LB	6-2	228	3	9/3/56	Kent State
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	230	2	2/14/58	Penn State
44	Newton, Tom	FB	6-0	213	5	3/8/54	California
11	Penrose, Craig	QB	6-3	212	6	7/25/53	San Diego State
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5	268	5	6/30/55	Southern California
15	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2	189	5	2/24/52	Wake Forest
66	Rasmussen, Randy	G	6-2	255	15	5/10/45	Kearney State
28	Ray, Darrol	S	6-1	200	2	6/25/58	Oklahoma
92	Roberts, Wesley	DE	6-4	260	2	8/1/57	Texas Christian
61	Roman, John	T	6-4	260	6	8/31/52	Idaho State
4	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	205	4	9/16/55	Tennessee
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3	265	6	2/12/53	Kent State
48	Schroy, Ken	S	6-2	195	5	9/22/52	Maryland
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	235	4	8/21/58	Penn State
50	Sullivan, John	LB	6-1	235	3	10/1/55	Illinois
14	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2	203	6	11/19/53	Alabama
70	Waldmore, Stan	C-T	6-4	230	4	2/20/55	Nebraska
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	175	5	5/26/55	California
72	Ward, Chris	T	6-3	270	3	12/16/55	Ohio State
71	Winkel, Bob	DT	6-4	255	3	10/23/55	Kentucky

sion that Richard Todd is the answer at quarterback has been hotly debated. His failure to blossom into the superstar the Jets had expected in 1976 was, it was considered, insecurity about whether he or Matt Robinson would be the first string quarterback. So they traded Robinson before the 1980 season, and Todd proceeded to have the worst year of his career, throwing 30 interceptions. For his five years as a pro, he has 91 interceptions and only 53 touchdown passes. Only the Giants' Phil Simms had a lower rating in 1980. So 1981, a crucial year for many of the Jets, is most critical for Richard Todd.

What makes Todd's case so frustrating is that he seems to be blessed with all the physical attributes needed, and he's a bright guy besides. Despite brave talk, though, his confidence seems to be minimal.

The Jets have done their best to help him, equipping him with some outstanding blockers and the best wide receivers the draft could bring. But still, they're waiting for the pieces to fit together.

Running backs—A disaster area a year ago, this could be a showcase department for the Jets this season. Their leading runner averaged an embarrassing 3.6 yards per carry last year, and the second-best average was a sub-professional 3.1. Those figures are guaranteed not to be repeated this season. The Jets' first two draft picks were spent on running backs, and one of them, Freeman McNeil, was considered by many scouts to be the very best of the college crop. A speedster with power from UCLA, McNeil would be the runner the Jets have sought for so many years. He'll be paired with another rookie, fullback Marion Barber, a devastating power runner at the University of Minnesota. Between them, they provide opposing defenses plenty to worry about, and ease some of the pass-rush pressure that Todd has been facing.

Additional help could come from veteran Clark Gaines, one of the most undervalued runners in the league. He suffered a broken leg early last season; at the time he was sidelined he was averaging 4.8 yards per carry and leading the NFL in receiving with 36 catches. He's solid and dependable, though unspectacular. Other reserves are likely to be holdovers Scott Diering and Kevin Long, last year's starters, kick return specialist Bruce Harper and Ralph Clayton, a second-round pick in '80, sidelined last year with a leg injury.

Receivers—With Johnny (Lam) Jones on one side and Wesley Walker on the other, the Jets have a pair of sprinters each of whom can go 40 yards in 4.38 seconds, a speed no pair of receivers elsewhere in the league can match. Both of them can catch, too, and it



was expected that the 1980 Jets would lead the league in bombs. Instead, they bombed. Jones caught only 25 passes after being the second man picked in the draft, and Walker's contributions were limited to 18 catches.

Injuries were the primary problem for Walker, who has proved himself to be one of the best deep receivers. Jones offers awesome promise and can sometimes be as dazzling as any receiver. "Sometimes when he makes a catch," said Michaels, "everybody just stops and watches." But too often in his rookie year, Jones didn't make the catch, even the routine one, and at one point he was benched. Still, he's expected to develop into a superstar.

When Jones learns the finer points of getting open and both he and Walker show up for work in full health, the Jets will have the finest knockout punch potential in the NFL.

The tight end is Mickey Shuler, who has good hands and good blocking ability, but poor speed. The Jets' reserves at the receiver positions, (Bobby Jones, Derrick Gaffney, and Jerome Barkum) are better than benchwarmers on most other teams, but they still need somebody to get the ball to them.

Offensive line—Most teams would happily trade their tackles for the Jets' Marvin Powell and Chris Ward, a pair of powerful pillars around whom to build an offensive line. Center Joe Fields is better than average and the guards, Dan Alexander and either Stan Waldemore or Guy Bingham, aren't bad. If 15-year veteran guard Randy Rasmussen decides to play for another season, though, he'll be the man to beat out of a position.

There are good players at several of the

spots, but none measure up to Powell, a Pro Bowler who can absolutely overwhelm an opponent. Now if the Jets could find somebody to take advantage of the holes that are opened . . .

DEFENSE

Line—At last, Mark Gastineau and Marty Lyons are becoming the stars that scouts expected when the Jets used first and second round draft choices to get them in 1979. Gastineau, who has monstrous potential at defensive end, has been a slow developer. Lyons' problem was that the Jets tried to play him at defensive end for a year before finally figuring out that he should be a tackle. He's especially effective against the run; Gastineau is an excellent pass rusher.

Joe Klecko usually does good work against both the run and the pass at the other defensive end spot, leaving the Jets with only one front line position to fill with top talent. In the past, it has been handled by Abdul Salaam.

Linebackers—If these guys could stay healthy, the Jets might have a decent linebacker corps. Stan Blinka, a fifth-round pick in 1979, has developed into a fine middle linebacker, and Greg Buttle has been good as outside linebacker since his rookie year. However, each had injury problems last year. Both of them, as well as the other outside linebacker, Ron Crosby, are especially effective against the run. Barring any further injuries, the Jets could improve considerably on their 1980 ranking as the NFL's 22nd-best team on defense.

Secondary—The biggest key to improvement on defense, though, is in the Jets' secondary. New York was 26th in pass defense in 1980, primarily because neither of the cornerbacks, Bobby Jackson nor Donald Dykes, is particularly effective. Second-year man Jesse Johnson might help this year. The brightest star in the Jet secondary is free safety Darrol Ray, a rookie last season. More than most areas of the Jet squad, the secondary has suffered because of bad judgment and player dissension. Many high draft choices have been wasted on this unit.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Chuck Ramsey is a good one, but placekicker Pat Leahy is a victim of inconsistency. He was dependable from short and long distances last year, but unpredictable at middle distance.

Pint-sized (5'8") Bruce Harper, a utility man *par excellence*, handles punt and kickoff returns for the Jets, and does both well. Considering the way the Jets surrender points, he gets a lot of work as a kickoff returner.



THE DRAFT

After years of operating with a bargain basement (although sometimes effective) corps of runners, the Jets spent their first and second round picks this year on running backs. Their top prize is Freeman McNeil, the outback specialist from UCLA whom many scouts rated the best halfback in the draft, better even than Heisman winner George Rogers. Paired with McNeil, who was the third player chosen in the first round, will be fullback Marion Barber, a 235-pound bruiser from Minnesota, summoned on the second round.

That done, the Jets went to work on defense, selecting line-men and linebackers. They got tackle Ben Rudolph on the third round and Tyrone Keys, potentially an outstanding pass rusher, on the fifth. Both were collegiate underachievers. They also tagged linebacker Al Washington, a fourth round pick who has super ability but doesn't always use it.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Freeman McNeil	3	RB	UCLA
2.	Marion Barber	20	RB	Minnesota
3.	Ben Rudolph	60	DE	Long Beach State
4.	Al Washington	86	LB	Ohio State
5.	Tyrone Keys	113	DE	Mississippi State
6.	John Woodring	142	LB	Brown
7.	Kenny Neil	169	DL	Iowa State
8.	Lloyd Jones	195	WR	Brigham Young
9.	J. C. Watts	213	QB	Oklahoma
10.	Admiral Dewey Larry	225	DB	Nevada-Las Vegas
11.	Marty Wetzel	251	LB	Tulane
12.	Edward Gall	278	DT	Maryland
	Mike Montler	308	DT	Drake

Philadelphia EAGLES



1980 SEASON RESULTS: WON 12 LOST 4

at Philadelphia.. 27	Denver.....	6
Philadelphia.. 42	at Minnesota.....	7
at Philadelphia.. 35	New York Giants.....	3
Philadelphia 14	at St. Louis.....	24
at Philadelphia.. 24	Washington.....	14
Philadelphia.. 31	at New York Giants.....	16
at Philadelphia.. 17	Dallas.....	10
at Philadelphia.. 17	Chicago.....	14
Philadelphia.. 27	at Seattle.....	20
Philadelphia.. 34	at New Orleans.....	21
Philadelphia.. 24	at Washington.....	0
at Philadelphia.. 10	Oakland.....	7
Philadelphia 21	at San Diego.....	22
at Philadelphia 17	Atlanta.....	20
at Philadelphia.. 17	St. Louis.....	3
Philadelphia 27	at Dallas.....	35
384		222

No. 31 Wilbert Montgomery

Dick Vermeil commissioned an independent scouting bureau to analyze the Eagles' personnel prior to the 1978 season and received some rather discouraging news. The Philly players ranked 22nd in the league, tied with the Giants and Saints, and ahead of only the Bucs, Jets, Seahawks, and Packers.

From that gloomy report, Vermeil made his own gloomy forecast: "We should be able to raise the caliber of athletes we are working with to the playoff average by the season of 1983."

Vermeil usually isn't wrong, but the head coach's calculations were a wee bit off this time. The Eagles actually made the playoffs in that very same season of 1978. They reached a step further in 1979 and last year arrived at the brink of the ultimate, losing to the upstart and fired-up Raiders in Super Bowl XV.

It was comical that, after the loss to the Raiders, Vermeil's critics jumped all over him for being too disciplined with his players. That same approach lifted a team, void of top draft picks when Vermeil arrived, to a performance level that completely shattered the timetable set by the head coach.

"Our motivation has to be unselfish, sincere, consistent—and very intense!" says Vermeil, realizing that his team's performance while certainly a lot better than it was in 1978, still isn't at a level with some of the other top teams in the league.

And Vermeil was able to motivate his team into the big one, the game he one time thought wouldn't feature his Eagles until at least the mid-1980s.

And at the end it was evident just how well the Eagle players responded to Vermeil's disciplined approach, mocked by many after the Philadelphia loss in New Orleans. For on the field that day were Wally Henry, the return specialist who had his spleen removed in mid-season; Charlie Smith, the wide receiver who was on a long liquid-diet because of a wired jaw; and Keith Kreple, the tight end who had undergone knee surgery in the middle of the season.

Many players might have said sayonara to the season with similar injuries. But the Eagles' dedication was evident, a product of Vermeil's philosophy of discipline.

"There's no question this was a great season, or we wouldn't even have been here," the coach said after the Oakland game. "I told the players I was proud of them for getting this far and I really appreciated what they had done for me."

And that included making him a rather lousy prophet.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
63	Baker, Ron	G	6-4	250	4	11/19/54	Oklahoma State
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3	245	13	2/9/45	Arkansas State
34	Berterson, Jim	RB	6-0	210	4	8/20/54	North Carolina
27	Blackmore, Richard	CB	5-10	174	3	8/14/56	Mississippi State
80	Blue, Luther	WR	5-11	180	5	10/21/55	Iowa State
97	Brown, Thomas	DE	6-4	240	2	7/8/57	Baylor
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1	220	10	7/15/50	North Carolina
67	Burnham, Len	DE	6-4	240	4	3/30/47	U.S. International
37	Campfield, Billy	RB	6-0	205	4	8/20/56	Kansas
17	Carmichael, Harold	WR	6-8	225	11	9/22/49	Southern University
59	Chesley, Al	LB	6-3	240	3	8/23/57	Pittsburgh
71	Clarke, Ken	MG	6-2	255	4	8/28/56	Syracuse
46	Edwards, Herman	CB	6-0	190	5	4/27/54	San Diego State
81	Fitzkee, Scott	WR	6-0	187	3	8/4/57	Penn. State
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	3	11/18/56	Texas A&M
33	Giammona, Louis	RB-KR	5-9	180	5	3/3/53	Utah State
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-3	260	6	12/15/52	Maryland State
35	Harrington, Perry	FB	5-11	210	2	3/13/58	Jackson State
20	Harris, Leroy	FB	5-9	230	4	7/3/54	Arkansas State
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6-8	275	4	7/31/56	Vanderbilt
24	Henderson, Zac	S	6-1	190	2	10/14/55	Oklahoma
89	Henry, Wally	WR-PR	5-8	180	5	10/30/54	UCLA
16	Hertel, Rob	QB	6-2	196	3	2/21/55	Southern California
30	Hicks, Eddie	RB	6-2	210	3	7/26/55	East Carolina
30	Hogan, Mike	FB	6-2	215	6	11/1/54	Tenn.-Chattanooga
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE	6-5	258	14	6/29/44	Tennessee State

7	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-2	196	7	3/23/51	Youngstown State
65	Johnson, Charlie	DT	6-3	262	5	1/17/52	Colorado
73	Kenney, Steve	T	6-4	262	2	12/26/55	Clemson
84	Kreple, Keith	TE	6-3	230	7	2/4/52	Iowa State
55	Le Master, Frank	LB	6-2	238	8	3/12/52	Kentucky
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1	195	9	5/1/51	Michigan
31	Montgomery, Wilbert	RB	5-10	195	5	9/16/54	Abilene Christian
50	Morris, Guy	C	6-4	255	9	5/13/51	Texas Christian
83	Parker, Rodney	WR	6-1	190	2	7/18/53	Tennessee State
69	Peoples, Woody	G	6-2	260	13	8/16/43	Grambling
62	Perot, Petey	G	6-2	261	3	4/28/57	Northwest Louisiana
52	Phillips, Ray	LB	6-4	230	5	3/18/54	Nebraska
9	Pisarcik, Joe	DB	6-4	220	5	7/7/52	New Mexico State
	Powell, Steve	RB	5-11	186	3	1/2/56	Northwest Missouri State
56	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	218	3	12/18/56	UCLA
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	3	3/24/56	South Carolina
21	Sciarra, John	S-PR	5-11	185	4	3/2/54	UCLA
76	Sisamore, Jerry	T	6-4	265	9	7/16/51	Texas
61	Slater, Mark	C	6-2	257	4	2/1/55	Minnesota
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1	185	8	7/26/50	Grambling
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6-4	240	3	8/1/57	Yale
39	Torrey, Bob	FB	6-3	232	2	1/30/57	Penn. State
42	Wagner, Steve	S	5-2	208	6	4/18/54	Wisconsin
75	Walters, Stan	T	6-6	275	10	5/27/48	Syracuse
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6-4	230	4	5/27/56	Georgia Tech
22	Wilson, Brenard	FS	6-0	175	3	8/15/55	Vanderbilt
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	181	2	12/1/57	Alcorn State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Ron Jaworski's preference for Oakland linebacker Rod Martin as his favorite receiver in Super Bowl XV was particularly shocking since the three interceptions the Eagle quarterback threw to Martin that day equaled one-fourth of his total for the 16-game regular season. Jaworski threw only 12 interceptions all year, less than three percent of his 451 pass attempts. The low interception rate, when added to his 57-percent completion percentage, 3529 yards, and 27 TDs, made Jaworski the top-rated QB in the NFC. His leadership also was a main factor in the Eagles' success. Backup Joe Pisarcik, the former Giant, hit on 15 of 22 tries in limited appearances. Rob Hertel and Steve Ensminger will battle for No. 3.

Running backs—It was a black-and-blue year for Wilbert Montgomery, whose yardage dropped to 778 because of time lost to hip, knee, and thigh injuries. But in the NFC championship game, Montgomery responded with 194 yards to destroy the Cowboys. His running mate, Leroy Harris, had some good moments with 330 yards, but could be in danger of losing the fullback job to second-year man Perry Harrington. The former Jackson State star averaged five yards per pop, and once he learns the blocking intricacies, he could be Montgomery's mate, or eventual replacement. Gutsy Louie Giammona proved a capable fill-in for Wilbert with 361 yards. Other veteran hopes are one-time starting fullback Mike Hogan, special pass-catching fullback Billy Campfield, and free agents Bob Torrey (Giants, Dolphins), Eddie Hicks (Giants), and Steve Powell (Bills, CFL).

Receivers—Charlie Smith broke his jaw in a game against Dallas in the regular-season finale after putting together his best season, 47 catches for 825 yards and three scores. The speedy veteran took some of the heat off huge Harold Carmichael, who had 48 catches (two less than Montgomery, the team leader) and nine TDs, although he saw his consecutive game reception streak end at 127 games when he was injured early in the final Dallas contest. Injuries to the starting duo, plus back-up man Scott Fitzkee, who broke his foot twice, gave free agent Rodney Parker his chance and the former CFLer responded with nine regular-season and several post-season receptions. Kreple and John Spagnola give Vermeil a good one-two set at tight end. But Ken Dunek and Ray Sydnor, rookies who were injured last year, may find work this coming season.

Offensive line—Jaworski and Pisarcik



aren't the most mobile quarterbacks around, yet the Eagle blockers allowed only 33 sacks in 510 passing plays. Tackles Jerry Sisemore and Stan Walters, guard Woody Peoples, and center Guy Morriss were joined by second-year man Petey Perot in the starting line-up. Sisemore made the Pro Bowl, but Walters had an off year and so didn't qualify. Perot was hot-and-cold while Peoples' play belied his 37 years. Morriss was nearly mistake-free again, save his one big offside error against the Raiders. The backups, tackle Steve Kenney and guard Ron Baker, each filled in admirably in the title win over Dallas. Mark Slater is the snapper on punt plays, while free agent tackle Jim Luscinski will get a look.

DEFENSE

Line—Nearly 70 percent of the Eagles' 44 sacks were accumulated by the "Three-H Club," defensive ends Claude Humphrey, Carl Hairston, and Dennis Harrison. Humphrey, the former Falcon talked out of retirement by Vermeil in 1979, led the team with 14½ (but only one in the last six games) playing mostly when the Eagles switched to their 4-2-5 defensive alignment in passing situations. Hairston, one of the league's most underrated performers, had eight sacks and was in on 117 tackles. The vastly improved Harrison also had eight sacks, and participated in 80 tackles. In addition the three combined for 102 "hurries" of opposing passers. Charley Johnson, who clogs up the runs (115 tackles), and Ken Clarke, who rushes the

passer (6½ sacks), are the noseguards. Youngster of the group is second-year man Thomas Brown, an end.

Linebackers—Bill Bergey returned from serious knee damage and while he wasn't his old self, played well enough to get in on a team-high 119 tackles. His inside running mate, Frank LeMaster, had a hand in 99 stops. Outside man John Bunting had perhaps his finest season. But the future star of the linebacking group is Jerry Robinson, one of two first-round choices to make it big the past two seasons. Robinson, with the speed of a halfback and the tenacity of a Bergey, had two interceptions, four fumbles recoveries, broke up seven passes, had two sacks and eight "hurries," was in on 99 stops and sold programs at Veterans Stadium. He may be the best young outside backer in the league. Reggie Wilkes, who plays in the 4-2-5; Al Chesley, being groomed as Bergey's replacement; and Ray Phillips, a former Bengal starter, are the reserves. Mike Curcio gets a second shot after bowing to injuries as a rookie.

Secondary—When the Eagles went to training camp they had a gaping hole at left cornerback. But along came the right peg in first-round draft pick Royneil Young, and the problem was solved. Despite his Super Bowl problems, Young had a sensational rookie season with four interceptions and gained the respect of his opponents. He joins the underrated Herman Edwards on the flanks. Randy Logan, perhaps a step slower but still a good one, handles the strong safety spot while Brenard Wilson plays a deep center-field as the free safety. It paid off in six thefts last year. Richard Blackmore, a good coverage man, is the nickel back with the multi-talented John Sciarra available as the dime, as well as holder, punt returner, emergency quarterback, and so on. Zac Henderson and Steve Wagner hope to hang on as the seventh back.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Vermeil admits he doesn't fiddle much with his kickers since he's not that well versed in that part of the game. So the barefooted Tony Franklin had to work his way out of a midseason slump, and appeared to have done so by season's end. He still seemed to be taking an extra half-second on his approach, which contributed to Ted Hendricks' block of a potential three-pointer in the Super Bowl. Max Runager averaged 39.3 on his punts. Henry's injury gave Sciarra (punts) and Campfield (kickoffs) a chance to do the returning, and both were so-so. Henry and ex-Lion Luther Blue will probably handle the kicks this year.



THE DRAFT

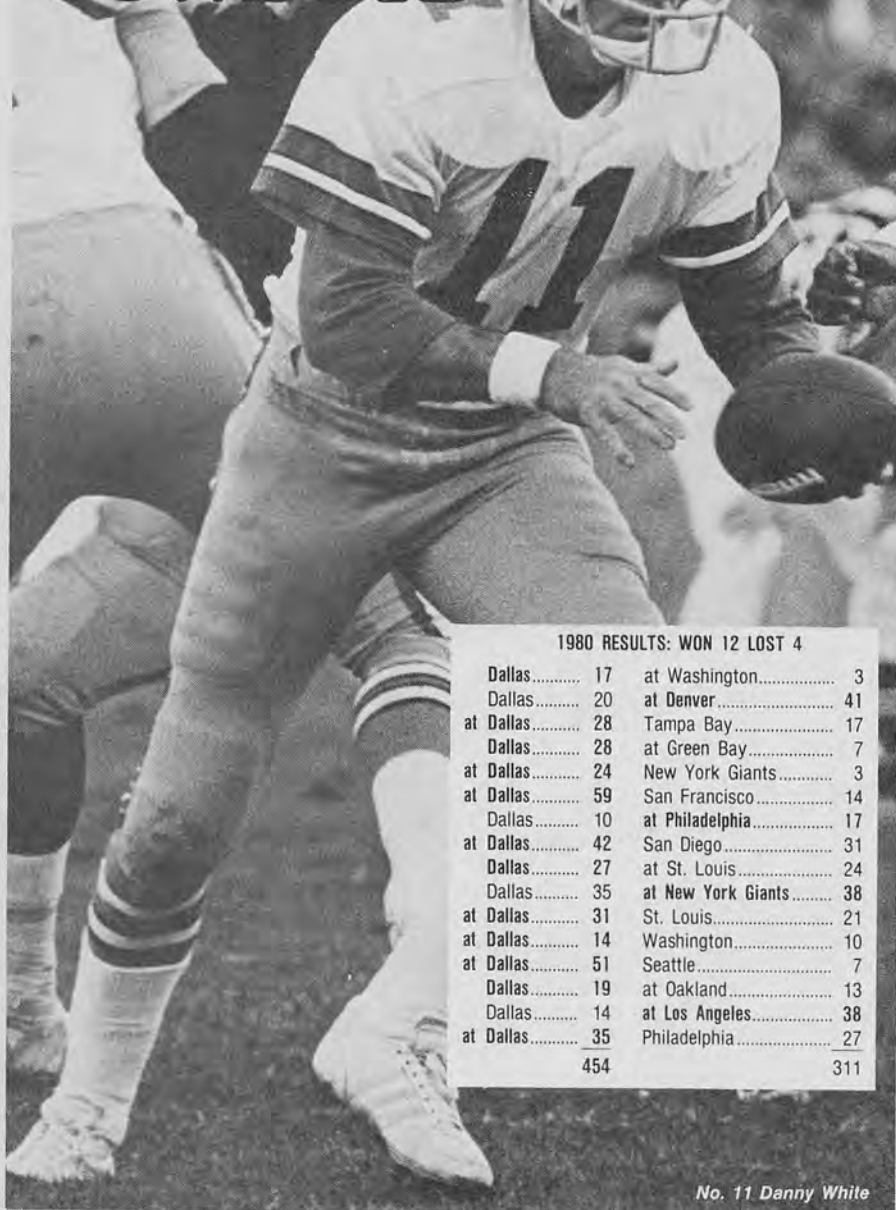
Humphrey and Peoples are the Eagles' Old Folks and Vermeil went out to find eventual replacements for the pair with his first two picks. He tabbed Houston's potential pass-rush master Leonard Mitchell with his first choice, and Utah guard Dean Miraldi with his second. Mitchell is one of those "when he wants to" players, but he'll either want to or be dropped by Vermeil.

The Eagles also added some offensive punch in LSU tight end Greg LaFleur (No. 3) and Ohio State swifty runner Calvin Murray (No. 4). A potential replacement for Franklin was added in Tennessee's Alan Duncan (No. 7).

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Leonard Mitchell	27	DE	Houston
2	Dean Miraldi	55	OG	Utah
3	Greg LaFleur	82	TE	Louisiana State
4	Calvin Murray	110	RB	Ohio State
5	(Choice to Miami)			
6	(Choice to New York Giants)			
7	(From San Francisco)			
	Alan Duncan	174	PK	Tennessee
7	Doak Field	192	LB	Baylor
8	(Choice to Baltimore)			
9	Chuck Comiskey	247	C	Mississippi
10	Hubert Oliver	275	RB	Arizona
11	Gail Davis	303	DT	Virginia Union
12	Ray Ellis	331	DB	Ohio State

Dallas COWBOYS



1980 RESULTS: WON 12 LOST 4

Dallas.....	17	at Washington.....	3
Dallas.....	20	at Denver.....	41
at Dallas.....	28	Tampa Bay.....	17
Dallas.....	28	at Green Bay.....	7
at Dallas.....	24	New York Giants.....	3
at Dallas.....	59	San Francisco.....	14
Dallas.....	10	at Philadelphia.....	17
at Dallas.....	42	San Diego.....	31
Dallas.....	27	at St. Louis.....	24
Dallas.....	35	at New York Giants.....	38
at Dallas.....	31	St. Louis.....	21
at Dallas.....	14	Washington.....	10
at Dallas.....	51	Seattle.....	7
Dallas.....	19	at Oakland.....	13
Dallas.....	14	at Los Angeles.....	38
at Dallas.....	35	Philadelphia.....	27
	454		311

No. 11 Danny White

Everything appeared back to normal in early January when the Dallas Cowboys put on one of their patented come-from-behinds to beat Atlanta in the NFC play-offs. About the only difference from the past was that No. 11, instead of No. 12, directed the comeback.

All that stood between the Cowboys and yet another Super Bowl appearance was the Philadelphia Eagles. But on that cold, windy January afternoon at Veterans Stadium, the Cowboys were reminded they were not the powerhouse of the past, but a team that actually surprised people by going as far as it did in the post-season.

Although there was no Vince Lombardi Trophy, nor NFC championship, nor even an Eastern Division title to show for it, many considered last season as Tom Landry's finest. He had to overcome a plethora of retirement and injury losses in order to keep the Dallas fans surrounded with the type of football they have become so accustomed to over the past decade and a half.

Landry will enter 1981 with at least one of last year's questions answered to the satisfaction of most, including the members of his squad. Danny White indeed can play quarterback in the NFL, and upon occasion provide the spark and the leadership to pull out one of those nail biters in much the same manner his predecessor, Roger Staubach, did so many times during his storied career.

But the other main concern of 1980 will remain in the 1981 season. And, if anything, the problem may worsen. That's because the three veteran members of the secondary, Charley Waters, Randy Hughes, and Benny Barnes, remain uncertainties, due to their respective physical problems.

Waters made a great comeback from knee surgery and at times gimped around the field as unofficial defensive backfield coach, directing the young group which became known as "Charley's Angels." But Waters had more off-season surgery, and may not want to subject the knee to any more contact.

Hughes was supposed to replace Cliff Harris at free safety, but he suffered a series of shoulder separations that eventually required surgery. A problem like that can become chronic, so Hughes, while he's giving it another shot, has to be considered iffy.

And Barnes got off to a slow start after undergoing an appendectomy on the eve of the regular-season opener. He'll be entering the 10th season of a career that has been dotted by physical problems.

While the younger players gained valuable experience, they certainly could use a steady influence in their midst if things really are to get back to normal with "America's Team."

Coaches: Tom Landry, Ernie Allen, Mike Ditka, Al Lavan, John Mackovic, Jim Myers, Gene Stallings, Ernie Stautner, Jerry Tubbs, Bob Ward.

DALLAS COWBOYS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6-1	195	10	3/3/51	Stanford
76	Betha, Larry	DT	6-5	254	4	7/21/56	Michigan State
56	Breunig, Bob	LB	6-2	225	7	7/4/53	Arizona State
59	Brown, Guy	LB	6-4	228	5	5/1/55	Houston
18	Carano, Glenn	QB	6-3	202	5	11/18/55	Nevada-Las Vegas
47	Clinkscale, Dexter	S	5-11	190	2	4/13/58	South Carolina State
61	Cooper, Jim	T	6-5	260	5	9/28/55	Temple
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	230	3	3/27/56	Santa Clara
51	Dickerson, Anthony	LB	6-2	215	2	5/9/57	Southern Methodist
67	Denovan, Pat	T	6-4	250	7	7/1/53	Stanford
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	190	5	4/7/54	Pittsburgh
89	Du Free, Billy Joe	TE	6-4	229	9	3/7/50	Michigan State
76	Dutton, John	DT	6-7	265	8	2/6/51	Nebraska
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6-5	260	11	4/16/48	Boston College
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6-6	255	5	7/25/54	New Mexico
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	225	6	1/17/53	Tennessee State
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	198	5	6/23/56	Stanford

14	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	200	2	8/21/58	Central Michigan
42	Hughes, Randy	S	6-4	207	7	4/9/53	Oklahoma
57	Hutther, Bruce	LB	6-1	220	5	7/23/54	New Hampshire
86	Johnson, Butch	WR	6-1	192	6	5/28/54	California-Riverside
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	270	7	2/23/51	Tennessee State
23	Jones, James	RB	5-10	200	3	12/6/58	Mississippi State
50	Lewis, D. D.	LB	6-1	215	10	10/16/45	Mississippi State
22	Manning, Wade	CB	5-11	190	2	7/25/55	Ohio State
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	250	4	11/16/50	East Texas State
34	Mitchell, Aaron	CB	6-1	196	3	12/15/56	Nevada-Las Vegas
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB	5-10	215	10	1/9/50	Houston
30	Newsome, Timmy	FB	6-1	227	2	5/17/58	Winston-Salem
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	183	9	1/12/51	Tulsa
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	6-1	196	15	1/17/45	Illinois
65	Petersen, Kurt	G	6-4	250	2	6/17/57	Missouri
84	Rafferty, Tom	G	6-3	250	6	8/2/54	Penn State
56	Roe, Bill	LB	6-3	230	2	2/6/58	Colorado
87	Saldi, Jay	TE	6-3	227	6	10/8/54	South Carolina
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6-2	252	7	1/18/53	Virginia Union
1	Septien, Rafael	K	5-9	171	5	12/12/53	Southwest Louisiana
52	Shaw, Robert	C	6-4	245	3	10/15/56	Tennessee
20	Springer, Ron	FB	6-0	210	3	11/4/56	Ohio State
77	Thornton, Bruce	DE	6-5	266	3	2/14/58	Illinois
32	Thurman, Dennis	S	5-11	170	4	4/13/56	Southern California
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6-2	200	11	9/10/48	Clatsop
61	Wells, Norm	G	6-5	260	2	9/8/57	Northwestern
11	White, Danny	QB-P	6-2	192	6	2/9/52	Arizona State
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	250	7	1/15/53	Maryland
45	Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	192	3	8/24/57	Howard

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—"Roger couldn't have done it any better," said Landry after White threw those two late scoring passes to Drew Pearson to whip the Falcons. Staubach's four-year understudy was generally consistent throughout his first season in the starting role, and for a while was atop the NFC passing ratings. He wound up seventh in the conference with his biggest drawback being a rather high interception total of 25. Glenn Carano took over as the backup and got to throw only a dozen passes, but had two TDs among his five completions. Gary Hogeboom took over Carano's clipboard as the No. 3 man.

Running backs—Tony Dorsett had his fourth consecutive 1000-yard season as the halfback. But the fullback spot wasn't as steady. Ron Springs, a converted halfback, led off at the start but fell out of favor. While he warmed the bench, along came old reliable Robert Newhouse who capably handled the position. Newhouse, if he doesn't retire, will be the incumbent, but if Springs can shake the malaise of the second half of last year, he should be a positive factor. And Tim Newsome, a big, raw rookie a year ago, might sneak into the starting spot. Dorsett, who had that big play-off game against the Rams, ran for 1185 yards, scored 11 TDs, and caught 34 passes. His backup, James Jones, did most of his work as a return man, although he added 135 yards on the ground. Dependable Preston Pearson was activated in midseason and caught 20 passes, but he says he won't be back in 1981.

Receivers—A touch of dissension arose in the Cowboy camp last season when Butch Johnson and others accused Tony Hill of malingering. Hill, who nevertheless led the team with 60 catches, 1055 yards, and eight TDs, was bothered by a shoulder problem most of the year. The extent of that injury was the cause of the dispute. Drew Pearson, after a slow start, wound up with 43 catches, not including those crucial grabs in the post-season. Johnson, unhappy with his status as No. 3, chipped in with 19 receptions, four for scores. The Cowboys remain three-deep at tight end with Billy Joe DuPree, Jay Saldi, and Doug Cosbie.

Offensive line—Two problem areas in an otherwise young, efficient offensive line were solved last season by playing Jim Cooper and Robert Shaw. Cooper took over at right tackle, the spot Rayfield Wright had owned for so many years, and held forth steadily throughout the season. Shaw, labeled a bust as a No. 1 draft pick after a shaky rookie season in 1979, built himself up in the Cowboys' off-



No. 31 Benny Barnes

season weight program and by the end of '80 was performing quite well at center. He got his chance when steady 10-year vet John Fitzgerald was injured, and now Shaw may be the man to beat entering 1981. Left tackle Pat Donovan and left guard Herb Scott both wound up in the Pro Bowl, while many insisted right guard Tom Rafferty should have gone to Hawaii, too. The reserves feature a trio of defensive linemen, tackle Andy Frederick and guards Kurt Petersen and Norm Wells, switched to offense, a trick the Cowboys often pull.

DEFENSE

Line—It's said the biggest surprises come in the smallest packages. But last year Landry got a great big surprise in a 6' 9", 260-pound package. Erstwhile heavyweight boxer Too Tall Jones returned to the Cowboys after a year in the ring, and showed more foot quickness than he had in the past while accumulating 83 tackles and seven sacks. His running mate, Harvey Martin, led the club with 12 sacks, but the unquestioned star of this defensive line is tackle Randy White. The former Maryland star is the premier lineman in the NFC with strength, speed, and quickness. Larry Cole and John Dutton split time at the

other tackle position, while Cole, a 14-year vet who is contemplating retirement, had a good year. Bruce Thornton and one-time No. 1 draft pick Larry Bethea are the reserves. Thornton's a good pass rusher.

Linebackers—In the first full year after Hollywood Henderson, Mike Hegman and Guy Brown are handling the strong-side duties. Hegman, a disappointment in the closing weeks of 1979 after Henderson was let go, improved last year and wound up fifth on the club with 85 tackles. He dislocated an elbow in the wild-card win over the Rams, and Brown filled in after that. Bob Breunig made it to the Pro Bowl after a year that saw him lead the team in tackles (as every middle linebacker in Landry's flex should) with 129 stops. Veteran D. D. Lewis has all but ended his retirement talk and figures to be back for a 13th season. Perhaps the Cowboys most surprising rookie was free agent Champ Dickerson, a CFL repatriot who starred on specials and played well in nickel situations. Last year's top pick Bill Roe (third round) and special teams ace Bruce Huther are two other reserves.

Secondary—If Waters, Hughes, and Barnes all are absent in '81, leadership will have to come from free safety Dennis Thurman, entering his fourth year. Thurman had five interceptions and was in on 101 tackles after replacing Hughes who was replacing Harris. The corners, Aaron Mitchell and Steve Wilson, will be entering their third seasons. But Wilson was a wide receiver-kick returner his rookie year and made a fine adjustment to defense. Mitchell is known as a hitter whose coverage must improve. Dexter Clinkscale, the nickel back as a rookie, could become the strong safety if neither Waters, with five interceptions and 88 tackles last year, nor Hughes returns.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Landry searched and searched last summer for a replacement for Danny White as the team's punter. But in the end he couldn't find anyone who could handle the job like his starting quarterback, who wound up with a 40.9 gross and 34.8 net average. The Cowboys again will look for someone to take that added burden off the quarterback, however. Rafael Septien, the racquetball champ, got to try only 17 field goals last year, but he made 11 and missed only one of 60 extra points. James Jones was an excellent return man, winding up fourth in punt runbacks with a 10.1 average (and only four fair catches in 58 chances) and sixth in kickoff returns with a 22.5 average. Newsome also handled some kickoffs and had a fine 24.4 average on 12 tries.

THE DRAFT

Although the secondary was the big need, the Cowboys went the "best athlete available" route in the draft, adding Missouri guard-tackle Howard Richards in the first round. Ohio State's speedy Doug Donley was added on the second, to add depth at wide receiver.

The first defensive back selected was Ohio State's Vince Skillings on the sixth round. Linebackers were plentiful with four selected. Washington State's Scott Pelluer (No. 4), Nebraska's Derrin Nelson (No. 4A), Tennessee's Danny Spradlin (No. 5), and Florida State's Paul Purovski (No. 6). BYU's Glen Tisenor (No. 3) will provide depth on the defensive line.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Howard Richards	26	OT	Missouri
2	Doug Donley	53	WR	Ohio State
3	Glen Tisenor	81	DE	Brigham Young
4	(From San Francisco)			
4	Scott Pelluer	97	LB	Washington State
4	Derrin Nelson	108	LB	Nebraska
5	Danny Spradlin	137	LB	Tennessee
6	Vince Skillings	163	DB	Ohio State
7	(From Tampa Bay)			
7	Ron Fellows	173	DB	Missouri
7	Ken Miller	191	DB	Eastern Michigan
8	Paul Purovski	218	LB	Florida State
9	Mike Wilson	246	WR	Washington State
10	Pat Graham	273	DT	California
11	Tim Morrison	302	DB	Georgia
12	Kate Landry	329	WR	Indiana



Washington REDSKINS

1980 RESULTS: WON 6 LOST 10

at Washington.. 3	Dallas.....	17
Washington.. 23	at New York Giants.....	21
Washington.. 21	at Oakland.....	24
at Washington.. 0	Seattle.....	14
Washington.. 14	at Philadelphia.....	24
Washington.. 17	at Denver.....	20
at Washington.. 23	St. Louis.....	0
at Washington.. 22	New Orleans.....	14
at Washington.. 14	Minnesota.....	39
Washington.. 21	at Chicago.....	35
at Washington.. 0	Philadelphia.....	24
Washington.. 10	at Dallas.....	14
Washington.. 6	at Atlanta.....	10
at Washington.. 40	San Diego.....	17
at Washington.. 16	New York Giants.....	13
Washington.. 31	at St. Louis.....	7
261		293

No. 35 Ricky Claitt

There were none of the usual fan protests nor player pop-offs that usually precede the firing of a head coach. In fact the Washington fans were solidly behind Jack Pardee. And his players, almost without exception, were in his corner, too.

But the Redskins' 6-10 season last year forced owner Jack Kent Cooke to make a move. It was either general manager Bobby Beathard or Pardee, and Cooke chose to fire Pardee. As a replacement, he brought in a longtime Don Coryell aide, Joe Gibbs. (Ironically, Pardee found work as a Coryell assistant in San Diego.)

Gibbs is from the offensive side of the line of scrimmage. He played for the bombs-away oriented Coryell at San Diego State, then coached under him for four years in St. Louis. The two rejoined forces in San Diego in 1979, where Gibbs helped forge the Air Coryell offense which has made the Chargers the most

explosive team in the entire National Football League.

He's supposed to be a tremendous motivator, and Cooke was of the opinion his Skins lacked that motivational edge last year under Jack Pardee.

Gibbs inherits a team still not fully recovered from George Allen's "damn-the-future" philosophy of the 1970s. The Skins had their initial first-round draft pick since 1968 last year and spent it wisely on wide receiver Art Monk, who looks like he'll become one of the top receivers in the league. His presence, and the strong right arm of Joe Theismann, gives Gibbs something with which to start building a wide-open Redskin attack, something missing since the days of Sonny Jurgensen.

Theismann is anxious to get working with Gibbs. Although he had a good relationship with former offensive coordinator Joe Walton (now with the Jets), the former Notre Dame

and Canadian League star has never played for an offensively schooled head coach.

"This is the first time I've had a coach who thinks offense first," he said when he heard of Gibbs' appointment. "I want to get working with him and learn his mind. I think I'll put my arm in a sling and give it a rest it until training camp starts."

Obviously Theismann thinks he'll be using that arm more, now that Gibbs is the Washington head coach. His teammates have adopted that wait-and-see attitude that surrounds almost every coaching change. They did not want Pardee to leave, and showed it by winning their last three games in an effort to save the head coach's job. But the streak was too little and much too late.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Theismann had what might be termed a mediocre season in 1980.

Coaches: Joe Gibbs, Don Breaux, Joe Bugel, Dan Henning, Bill Hickman, Larry Peccatiello, Richie Petitbon, Wayne Sevier, Warren Simmons, LaVern Torgeson.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Birth- Exp.	College
79	Bacon, Coy	DE	6-4	265	14	8/30/43 Jackson State
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	246	2	9/18/58 Clemson
69	Brooks, Perry	DT	6-3	260	4	12/4/54 Southern University
85	Butz, Dave	OT	6-7	265	9	6/23/50 Purdue
35	Claitt, Ricky	RB	5-9	206	2	4/12/57 Bethune-Cookman
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	3	11/4/57 Arkansas Central
10	Connell, Mike	P	6-1	200	3	3/15/56 Cincinnati
63	Dean, Fred	G	6-3	253	5	2/24/55 Texas Southern
	Dimler, Rich	TE	6-6	260	2	7/18/56 Southern California
85	Du Bois, Phil	TE	6-2	220	2	11/16/56 San Diego State
59	Dusek, Brad	LB	6-2	223	8	12/13/50 Texas A&M
30	Forte, Ike	RB	6-0	211	6	3/8/54 Arkansas
76	Gibbons, Mike	T-G	6-4	262	3	1/23/51 Southwest Oklahoma
34	Hammond, Bobby	RB	5-10	170	6	2/20/52 Morgan State
22	Hardeman, Buddy	RB	6-0	200	3	10/21/54 Iowa State
38	Harmon, Clarence	RB	5-11	210	5	11/30/55 Mississippi State
89	Harrison, Kenny	WR	6-0	170	5	12/12/53 Southern Methodist
75	Hermeling, Terry	T	6-5	255	12	4/25/46 Nevada-Reno

82	Hickman, Dallas	DE-LB	6-6	242	6	2/15/52 California
40	Jackson, Wilbur	RB	6-1	219	7	11/19/51 Alabama
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	6-1	205	6	3/15/53 Boston College
54	Kuziel, Bob	C	6-5	255	7	7/24/50 Pittsburgh
20	Lavender, Joe	CB	6-4	190	9	2/10/49 San Diego State
71	Lorch, Karl	DE	6-3	258	8	6/14/50 Southern California
80	McDaniel, John	WR	6-1	197	8	9/23/51 Lincoln
84	McKinney, Zion	WR	6-0	200	2	2/10/58 South Carolina
57	Milot, Rich	LB	6-4	230	3	5/28/57 Penn State
61	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	210	2	12/5/57 Syracuse
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	205	10	3/12/48 Stephen F. Austin
29	Murphy, Mark	S	6-4	210	5	7/13/55 Colgate
21	Nelms, Mike	S	6-1	185	2	4/8/55 Baylor
62	Nugent, Dan	G	6-4	250	5	8/22/53 Auburn
52	Okewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	227	3	1/30/57 Maryland
24	Parrish, Lemar	CB	5-10	170	12	12/13/47 Lincoln
56	Peiffer, Dan	C	6-3	251	4	3/29/51 Southern Missouri
23	Peters, Tony	S	6-1	177	7	4/28/53 Oklahoma
	Raba, Bob	TE	6-1	225	5	4/23/55 Maryland
64	Saul, Ron	G	6-3	254	12	2/5/48 Michigan State
76	Scanlan, Jerry	T	6-5	270	2	1/4/57 Hawaii
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	250	9	7/18/48 Columbia
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	195	8	9/9/49 Notre Dame
83	Thompson, Ricky	WR	6-0	177	6	5/15/54 Baylor
47	Waddy, Ray	CB	5-11	175	3	8/21/56 Texas A&I
88	Walker, Rick	TE	6-4	235	5	5/28/55 UCLA
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	236	3	5/5/56 San Diego State
45	White, Jeris	CB	5-10	188	8	9/3/52 Hawaii
73	Williams, Jeff	G	6-4	256	4	4/15/55 Rhode Island

Seven NFC quarterbacks ranked ahead of him and seven ranked behind him in the final passing stats. His yardage total increased from 2797 in '79 to 2962 in '80, but his completion percentage dropped (59.0 to 57.7), his TD passes shrank (from 20 to 17) and his interceptions increased (from 13 to 16). He remains an excellent scrambling threat, averaging six yards on his 29 saunters last year. Gibbs saw him at his best when the Skins upset the Chargers late in the season. Theismann completed 26 of 37 for 269 yards and 2 TDs without an interception. But most of those completions were of the dump-off variety not generally employed by Air Coryell proponents. Mike Kruczek, the former Steeler, completed 71 percent of his 31 passes but none for TDs in his backup role.

Running backs—The Skins were disrupted last summer by the absence of star runner John Riggins, who was having contract problems. Finally the Redskins' management decided to end the speculation of when and if Riggins would report by placing him on a retired list, preventing him from playing all year. Then it went out and obtained Wilbur Jackson from San Francisco, and Jackson, while not coming near Riggins' past performances, led the team with 708 yards. Gutsy Clarence Harmon (484 yards, 54 catches, 8 TDs) was the other top producer. But the Skins have added swift runner-receiver Joe Washington from Baltimore to provide some game-breaking speed. Bobby Hammond (265 yards, 5.9 clip), Ricky Claitt (215 yards), versatile Buddy Hardeman (132), and Ike Forte (51), hurt most of last year, are other returning backs.

Receivers—Monk gives the Redskins their first bona fide outside threat since the great Charley Taylor. Like Taylor, Monk is a converted running back, and he can carry his 6' 3", 210-pound body over 40 yards in 4.5 seconds. He caught a team-high 58 passes last year for 797 yards and three scores, and should improve on those stats this year. Ricky Thompson (22 catches) and John McDaniel (14) split time at the other outside post last year, with journeyman Kenny Harrison and second-year man Zion McKinney also around. Disaster struck the tight end spot just before the start of the season when both starter Don Warren and backup Phil DuBois were hurt. Former Bengal Rick Walker was brought in and held the fort until Warren recovered to finish with 31 receptions. A former San Diego Stater, Warren could be a big man in the pass offense this year.

Offensive line—Gibbs tried to assure the many Redskin veterans he wouldn't clean house if he found the older guys still could play. That must have made many of the offen-



No. 7 Joe Theismann

sive linemen take hope, since age certainly is a factor along the front. Of the starters only guard Jeff Williams (26) is below the 30-year mark. Tackles Terry Hermeling (35) and George Starke (33), guard Ron Saul (33), and center Bob Kuziel (31), plus his backup Dan Peiffer (30), all have had their shares of helmet bumpings during their careers. Guard Dan Nugent, another who was brought back after having been cut; tackle Jeff Scanlan, who was activated off injured reserve in mid-season; and long-snapper Jeff Bostic served as backups a year ago. Veteran guard Fred Dean was starting at times before a knee injury kayoed him late in the year.

DEFENSE

Line—There's also some Geritol passed around at the defensive line meetings although two of last year's graybeards won't be back. Paul Smith announced his retirement, while long-time Skin stalwart Diron Talbert was not given a qualifying offer. Coy Bacon, who'll be 38 by the time they tee it up for the regular-season opener, led the club in sacks with 11, while fellow end Karl Lorch (31) chipped in with 7½. Neither is outstanding against the run, however, which helped the Skins to their No. 13 ranking against opposing rushers. Tackle Dave Butz (31) probably will be joined by Perry Brooks, hurt part of last season, although two youngsters hurt a year ago, Pat Ogrin and Jack Shrawder, will be back to contest. So will Mat Mendenhall, last year's second-round pick who sat out the

year. Mendenhall and Dallas Hickman will be looking for work at the expense of the aging ends.

Linebackers—Pete Wysocki retired after the year but Monte Coleman, an extraordinary athlete, had moved ahead of him on the right side anyway. Coleman was second on the team in tackles with 115; had five sacks; intercepted three passes; and recovered two fumbles last season. And he's young—23. Brad Dusek holds down the other side although there were rumors he might head west to rejoin Pardee in San Diego. Neal Olkewicz, the free-agent find of 1979, played the middle on most running downs and finished third in total tackles with 109. But Rich Milot took over in passing situations and wound up with 83 stops, five sacks, and four interceptions. He could move back to the outside, his original position, if Dusek is dealt.

Secondary—Ken Houston was phased out at strong safety last year, giving way to the younger Tony Peters. But the Skins still finished first in the entire NFL on pass defense, partially because teams could run on them, and partially because they still have a good secondary. Cornerbacks Lemar Parrish had seven interceptions and his running mate, Joe Lavender, added six more as they continued to give the Skins all-star service on the flanks. Mark Murphy had an excellent season in his second as the free safety starter. Not only did he intercept six passes, he also led the club in tackles with 181. Peters fit in nicely and added four to the NFC-high total of 33 team interceptions (only champion Oakland, with 35, had more thefts in the NFL). Former Dolphin Jeris White backs up the corners and plays in nickel situations while kick returner Mike Nelms is the spare safety. Corner Ray Waddy suffered a broken leg and missed the second half of last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mark Moseley got off to a very slow start, and it appeared age might be catching up to one of the strongest legs in the league. He connected on only two of his first nine tries and was just 4-for-13 when he exploded with 5-for-6 against New Orleans. He finished 18-for-33, but with a subpar 3-for-11 from 50-yards-or-more (he had been 7-for-15 from the 50-and-beyond the previous three seasons). Mike Connell took over the punting chores from Mike Bragg and posted a 39.2 mark but with a conference-low 11 inside the 20. Nelms, who came down from Canada, made it to the Pro Bowl with his return work that saw him average 21.3 on kickoff returns and 10.1 on punt runbacks, with only five fair catches in 53 chances.



THE DRAFT

Bearhead and Gibbs added draft choices by switching No. 15 with Los Angeles, and then dealing next year's No. 1 to L.A. for a handful of selections. One of the extra choices was dealt to Baltimore for running back Washington, who could be a valuable addition.

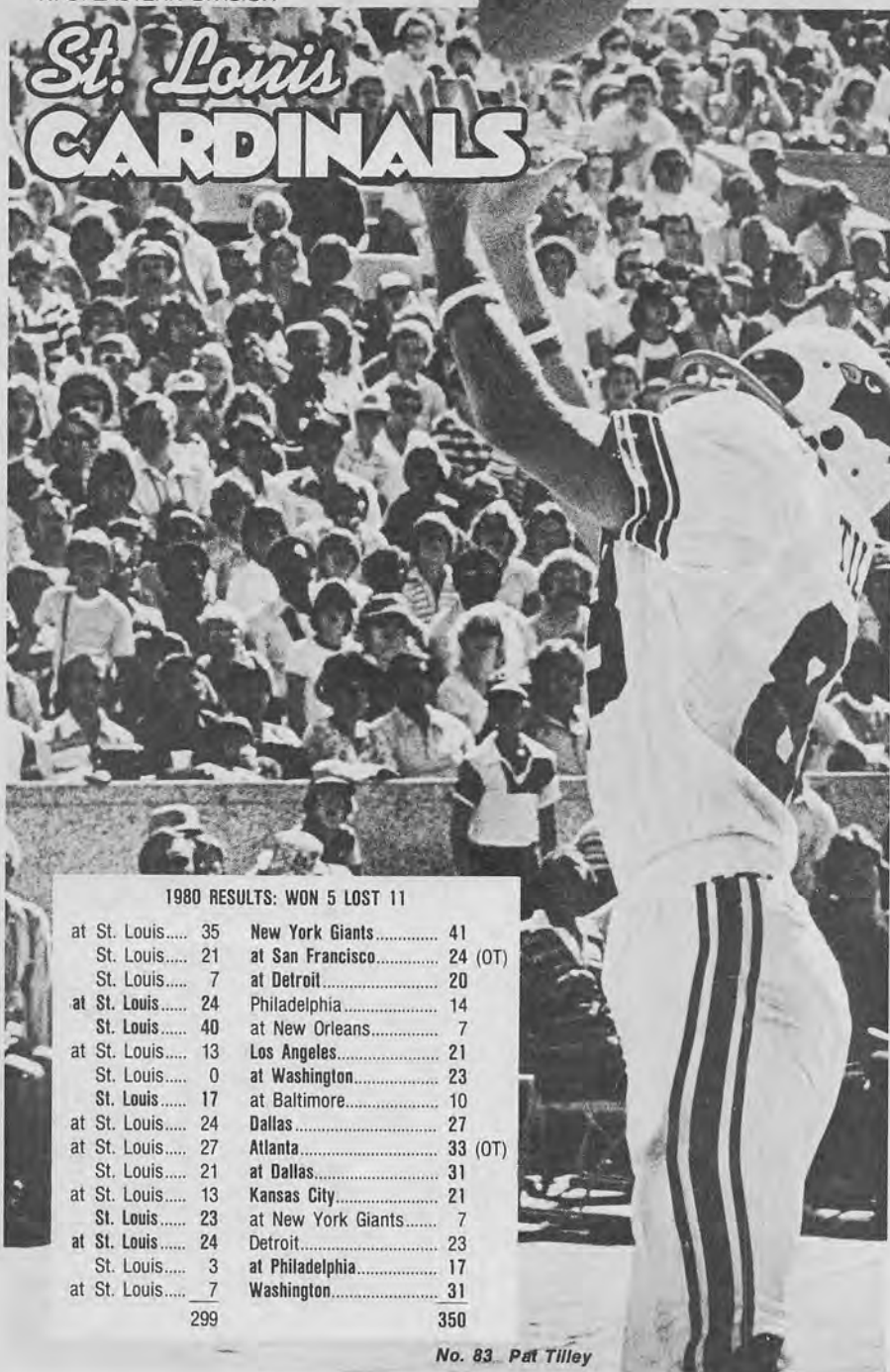
The offensive line will get a face-lift from No. 1 choice Mark May, the Outland Trophy winning tackle from Pitt, and his teammate, center Russ Grimm (No. 3). Tom Flick, a smart (if not overly talented) quarterback, was added on Round 3.

There were only two defensive selections and one of them, Penn State linebacker Larry Rubin (No. 8), was scheduled to return to school for his redshirt year. The Skins will retain his rights until the next draft, however. Oklahoma State's Dexter Manley (No. 5) has potential as a pass-rushing end.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	(Choice to Los Angeles)			
1.	(From Los Angeles)			
2.	Mark May	20	OT	Pittsburgh
3.	(Choice to San Francisco)			
3.	(Choice to Los Angeles)			
4.	(From Miami)			
4.	Russ Grimm	69	C	Pittsburgh
4.	(From Green Bay)			
4.	Tom Flick	90	QB	Washington
4.	(Choice to Cleveland)			
5.	Dexter Manley	119	DE	Oklahoma State
5.	(From Los Angeles)			
6.	Gary Sawyer	132	OG	Cameron State (OK)
6.	Larry Rubin	148	LB	Penn. State
7.	(Choice to Los Angeles)			
8.	Charley Brown	201	WR	South Carolina State
9.	Darryl Bram	231	OG	Rice
10.	Phil Kessel	257	QB	Northern Michigan
11.	Jerry Hill	284	WR	Northern Alabama
12.	Clint Didier	314	WR	Portland State

St. Louis CARDINALS



1980 RESULTS: WON 5 LOST 11

at St. Louis..... 35	New York Giants..... 41
St. Louis..... 21	at San Francisco..... 24 (OT)
St. Louis..... 7	at Detroit..... 20
at St. Louis..... 24	Philadelphia..... 14
St. Louis..... 40	at New Orleans..... 7
at St. Louis..... 13	Los Angeles..... 21
St. Louis..... 0	at Washington..... 23
St. Louis..... 17	at Baltimore..... 10
at St. Louis..... 24	Dallas..... 37
at St. Louis..... 27	Atlanta..... 33 (OT)
St. Louis..... 21	at Dallas..... 31
at St. Louis..... 13	Kansas City..... 21
St. Louis..... 23	at New York Giants..... 7
at St. Louis..... 24	Detroit..... 23
St. Louis..... 3	at Philadelphia..... 17
at St. Louis..... 7	Washington..... 31
299	350

No. 83 Pat Tilley

It should have been apparent the first week of last season when the St. Louis Cardinals scored 35 points against the Giants—and lost!

No, it wasn't going to be the year the Big Red rebounded to the playoff levels of the mid-'70s. Jim Hanifan's first year as head coach in St. Louis was to be just another chapter in the soapiest of operas that has irritated the Cardinal fans for several seasons.

"This team has more talent and better personnel than the teams that won division titles in '74 and '75," Hanifan said prior to the start of last training camp. Hanifan, you may recall, was the offensive line coach for those Big Red title teams.

It was in the offensive line, the Cardinals' pride and joy for many seasons, that the continuing story of St. Louis' woes penned most chapters. First, guard Bob Young was ruled physically unfit to play. Yet he eventually went on to Houston where he was healthy enough to play and play well.

Then guard Terry Stieve was lost for the year in training camp with a knee injury. Tackle Keith Wortman also became a knee victim after two games. Tom Banks, who moved from center to guard during the siege, hurt his knee and was sidelined after six games. After he squawked, he was waived on to Washington, where he lasted less than a week.

In addition to the line problems, there was the trouble generated by the cutting of two former first-round draft picks, quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz and kicker Steve Little. Pisarkiewicz was the main point of contention in the rift between former coach Bud Wilkinson and owner Billy Bidwill. Little's release turned to tragedy when he was involved in a crippling auto accident the same night.

Also, there was the abnormal string of injuries throughout the season that kept Hanifan from putting the same 22 men on the field for any length of time. In all 22 players spent time on the Cards' injured reserve list with No. 1 draft pick Curtis Greer spending two shifts on the Red Cross line.

On the field the Cards became proficient at building first-half leads, then squandering them in the second half. Six of the Redbirds' 11 defeats were second-half destruction jobs.

Finally, at the end of the season, the Cards won the championship of the option-playout free agents when they submitted a list of 14, including vets Jim Hart, Mel Gray, Dan Dierdorf, and Mark Arneson, to the league office.

It was a year either to forget or, as Hanifan hopes, from which to grow. Even the spectre of O.J. Anderson running over, around, and through defenders couldn't erase the overall depths of Hanifan's first season.

Coaches: Jim Hanifan, Bill Atkins, Chuck Banker, Tom Bettis, Don Brown, Rudy Feldman, Harry Gilmer, Dick Jamieson, Tom Lovat, Leon McLaughlin, Emmitt Thomas.

ST LOUIS CARDINALS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
67	Acker, Bill	DT	6-2	255	2	11/7/56	Texas
27	Allen, Carl	CB	6-0	186	5	12/21/55	Southern Mississippi
32	Anderson, Otis	RB	6-2	215	3	1/19/57	Miami
57	Arneson, Mark	LB	6-2	224	10	3/9/49	Arizona
52	Baker, Charles	LB	6-3	265	3	4/20/57	New Mexico
81	Bell, Mark	WR	5-9	175	3	6/14/57	Colorado State
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	265	3	4/20/57	Clemson
51	Brahane, Tom	C	6-2	246	9	10/23/51	Oklahoma
55	Brooks, Jonathan	LB	6-2	215	3	6/22/57	Clemson
69	Brown, Rush	DT	6-2	257	2	6/27/54	Ball State
33	Brown, Theotis	RB	6-2	225	3	4/20/57	UCLA
64	Clark, Randy	C-G	6-3	254	2	7/27/57	Northern Illinois
61	Coder, Ron	G	6-4	250	5	5/24/54	Penn State
44	Collier, Tim	CB	6-0	174	6	5/31/54	East Texas State
66	Collins, George	G-T	6-2	260	4	12/9/55	Georgia
80	Combs, Chris	TE	6-4	237	2	3/17/58	New Mexico
60	Cotton, Barney	G	6-5	285	3	9/30/56	Nebraska
54	Criswell, Kirby	LB	6-5	238	2	8/31/57	Kansas
73	Dawson, Mike	DT	6-4	275	6	10/16/53	Arizona
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T	6-3	288	11	6/29/49	Michigan
59	Favron, Calvin	LB	6-1	225	3	7/3/57	Southeast Louisiana
70	Goodspeed, Mark	T	6-5	270	2	12/1/56	Nebraska

65	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	173	11	9/28/48	Missouri
25	Green, Roy	S	5-11	190	3	6/30/57	Henderson, Arkansas
37	Greene, Ken	S	6-3	203	4	5/8/56	Washington State
75	Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	252	2	11/10/57	Michigan
39	Harrell, Willard	RB	5-8	182	7	9/16/52	Pacific
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1	210	16	4/29/44	Southern Illinois
56	Kearney, Tim	LB	6-2	224	10	10/5/50	Northern Michigan
46	Lee, Jeff	WR	6-2	195	2	5/23/55	Nebraska
16	Liech, Rusty	QB	6-3	215	2	12/21/56	Notre Dame
40	Love, Randy	RB	6-1	205	3	9/30/56	Houston
14	Loyd, Mike	QB	6-2	216	3	5/6/58	Missouri Southern
87	Marsh, Doug	TE	6-3	235	2	6/18/58	Michigan
76	Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	240	2	3/13/58	Washington
50	McIntyre, Jeff	LB	6-3	232	4	9/20/55	Arizona State
24	Morris, Wayne	RB	6-0	208	6	5/3/54	Southern Methodist
53	Neils, Steve	LB	6-2	218	8	5/2/51	Minnesota
38	Nelson, Lee	S	5-10	185	6	1/30/54	Florida State
8	O'Donoghue, Neil	K	6-6	210	5	5/18/53	Auburn
36	Phillips, Rod	RB	6-0	221	7	12/23/52	Jackson State
62	Pollard, Bob	DE	6-3	252	11	12/30/48	Weber State
58	Seabron, Tom	LB	6-3	215	2	5/24/57	Michigan
84	Slief, Dave	WR	6-3	195	4	1/29/56	Portland State
68	Stieve, Terry	G	6-2	263	5	3/10/54	Wisconsin
23	Stone, Ken	S	6-1	180	9	9/14/50	Vanderbilt
10	Swider, Larry	P	6-2	195	3	2/1/55	Pittsburgh
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	171	6	2/15/53	Louisiana Tech
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB	6-0	194	13	11/26/47	Missouri
55	Williams, Eric	LB	6-2	225	5	6/17/55	Southern California
62	Wortman, Keith	T	6-2	275	10	7/20/50	Nebraska
78	Yankowski, Ron	DE	6-5	260	11	10/23/46	Kansas State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Hart, at age 36, kept the Cards respectable for most of the year although he threw 20 interceptions compared to only 16 TDs. He has said he would like to play a few more seasons, which comes as good news to the Cards since they lack a young replacement for their No. 1 passer. When Hart was injured late in the year, Mike Loyd and Rusty Lisch tried to fill the void behind center but wound up completing only 11 of 45 passes for 117 yards and no scores—with four interceptions. Loyd, a free agent from Missouri Southern, was just 5 for 28 while Lisch, a fourth-round pick from Notre Dame, was 6 for 17 but with three interceptions. Their play had Cardinal fans wondering just how bad Pisarkiewicz, a No. 1 choice in 1977, could have been.

Running backs—Anderson, along with receiver Pat Tilley, was a beacon throughout the dismal year. The second-year runner from Miami carried 301 times and gained 1352 yards to finish second to the Bears' Walter Payton among NFC rushers for the second consecutive season. Anderson did some experimenting early in the year, then returned to the power style that had made him the NFC's top rookie in 1979. He scored nine TDs and also caught 36 passes out of the backfield. Wayne Morris, O.J.'s running mate most of the year, wound up with 456 yards and six scores while providing solid blocking. Theotis Brown gained 185 yards and caught 21 passes as Morris' backup but failed to show the consistency needed to take over at fullback. Little Willard Harrell added 170 yards and three scores as Anderson's backup man. Randy Love and Rod Phillips combined for just three carries in support of the top four backs.

Receivers—Tilley had earned a Pro Bowl berth on the basis of his 68-catch, 966-yard, six-touchdown season. But a late-season groin injury knocked him out of the February date in Honolulu. Nevertheless the 5'10", 170-pound six-year man from Louisiana Tech has established himself as one of the top outside threats in the league. Gray had done that years ago but now has slowed down somewhat from his sprinting best. The mighty 5'9" mite will be entering his 11th season after catching 40 balls for a still impressive 17.7 yard average and three scores in '80. Dave Stief (16 catches) and Mark Bell (8 receptions) plus Jeff Lee, re-signed late in the season, are the veteran reserves. Second-round pick Doug Marsh caught 22 passes as a rookie tight end, and must improve upon his all-around play. Chris Combs, another second-year man, is his backup.



No. 39 Willard Harrell

Offensive line—Stieve and Wortman had worked themselves into topflight although underrated blockers. Their returns would mean the return to decency by the Big Red front wall. Dierdorf remains a solid blocker at right tackle. Stieve's running mate would be third-year man Joe Bostic, who filled in at tackle as a rookie before settling as a guard last year. Tom Brahoney is capable at center. The reserves got playing time because of the injuries a year ago, George Collins, Barney Cotton, Ron Coder, Mark Goodspeed, and Randy Clark provide the backup strength that Hanifan hopes he won't have to call upon so often this year.

DEFENSE

Line—Greer, the fifth man selected in last year's draft, was supposed to provide pressure from his defensive end spot. But a concussion early in the year and a broken thumb late in the season curtailed his play and he wound up as co-leader in team sacks with just 6½. Bob Pollard was third in team tackles and had five sacks from his left end spot. Rush Brown took over from the injured Mike Dawson (knee) at noseguard and played well.

Then the rookie had to move to end to replace Greer, allowing yet another first-year man, Bill Acker, to get some play on the nose. Stafford Mays, the fourth draft pick to make the team as a defensive lineman, played well in spots as a spare end. Dawson and end Ron Yankowski (five sacks) join Pollard as the vets among this sea of youngsters.

Linebackers—Good health blessed the linebacking corps for a change, at least until leading tacklers Tim Kearney and Eric Williams were forced to the sidelines with late-season injuries. Kearney with 99 tackles and Williams with 87 stops acted as the inside backers. Steve Neils tied Greer for the team lead in sacks with 6½ while Arneson was steady on the other flank and contributed five sacks. The inside replacements Calvin Favron and Jeff McIntyre played enough to combine for 97 tackles. Charles Baker, a promising youngster, and retreads Tom Seabron, Jonathan Brooks, and Kirby Criswell provided depth at the outside spots. Baker got in on 40 tackles while Criswell was a second-round draft pick of the Bengals who flunked trials both in Cincinnati and in Green Bay.

Secondary—Roger Wehrli, longtime kingpin of the Cards' defensive backfield, showed signs of wear last year and even was benched for a short spell. His right corner spot could fall to former Chief Tim Collier, who had two interceptions to Wehrli's one, a year ago. Carl Allen, the left corner, had three interceptions (one a 70-yard TD return) and was in on 61 tackles. Ken Stone led the club with five interceptions while Ken Greene was playing extremely well at strong safety (four interceptions, 61 tackles) before a knee injury sidelined him. Lee Nelson, who got off to a poor start at left corner and wound up playing strong safety for the injured Greene, and kick returner Roy Green, who spelled Stone as the free safety and played as the nickel back before he too was hurt, were the veteran reserves.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Little was just 3 for 8 on field goal tries before he was replaced by former Bucs' kicker Neil O'Donoghue after six games. O'Donoghue finished with 11 of 15 field goals and all of his 18 extra point tries. Larry Swider, who came from Detroit just before the start of the regular season, averaged a healthy 41.5 yards on his 99 punts. Roy Green, who had that 106-yard kickoff return in 1979, ran a punt back 57 yards for a score last season. He averaged 10.5 on punt returns and 23.3 on kickoff runbacks. Bell (8.8 on punts) and Harrell (18.3 on kickoffs, 2.8 on punts) were other return men.

THE DRAFT

The Cards may have found the eventual successor to Hart in Portland State's fabled Neil Lomax. And they were able to make the find on the second round.

Before Lomax, the Cards found instant linebacking help in Alabama's E. J. Junior, then later added even more potential aid in the area by grabbing a pair of Big 10ers, Illinois' John Gillen (No. 5) and Wisconsin's Dave Ahrens (No. 6). Utah's Jeff Griffin (No. 3) and North Dakota State's Kevin Donnelly should pressure for jobs in the secondary. Both are corners.

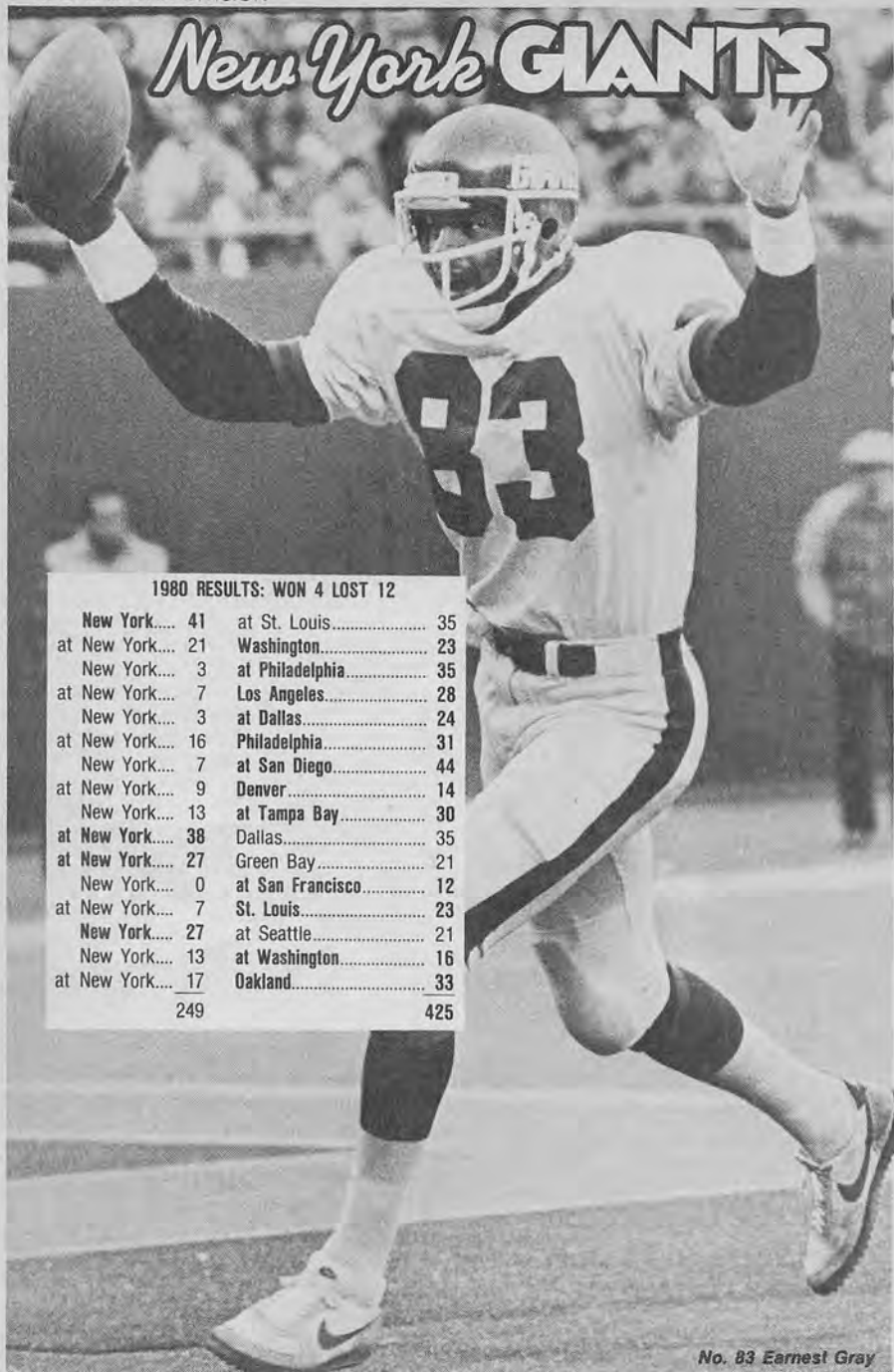
Lomax, who threw for an amazing 13,220 yards at Portland State, might find his receivers some day from among the four grabbed in the '81 draft: Oklahoma's Steve Rhodes (No. 4), Baylor's Mike Fisher (No. 8), Alabama track man James Mallard (No. 10), and Miami of Florida's Jim Joiner (No. 10A).

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	E.J. Junior	5	LB	Alabama
2.	Neil Lomax	33	QB	Portland State
3.	Jeff Griffin	61	DB	Utah
4.	Steve Rhodes	88	WR	Oklahoma
5.	John Gillen	116	LB	Illinois
6.	Dave Ahrens	148	LB	Wisconsin
7.	Kevin Donnelly	171	DB	North Dakota State
8.	Mike Fisher	198	WR	Baylor
9.	Stump Mitchell	226	RB	Citadel
10.	James Mallard	253	WR	Alabama
10.	(From Denver)			
	Jim Joiner	263	WR	Miami (FL)
11.	Mike Sherrod	281	TE	Illinois
12.	Jon Adams	309	OG	Nebraska



New York GIANTS



1980 RESULTS: WON 4 LOST 12

New York.....	41	at St. Louis.....	35
at New York....	21	Washington.....	23
New York.....	3	at Philadelphia.....	35
at New York....	7	Los Angeles.....	28
New York.....	3	at Dallas.....	24
at New York....	16	Philadelphia.....	31
New York.....	7	at San Diego.....	44
at New York....	9	Denver.....	14
New York.....	13	at Tampa Bay.....	30
at New York....	38	Dallas.....	35
at New York....	27	Green Bay.....	21
New York.....	0	at San Francisco.....	12
at New York....	7	St. Louis.....	23
New York.....	27	at Seattle.....	21
New York.....	13	at Washington.....	16
at New York....	17	Oakland.....	33
249		425	

No. 83 Earnest Gray

Most coaches are given a one-year grace period to start implementing their systems and acquiring the personnel they want to make those systems work. And in Ray Perkins' case, he was given a second year since the inordinate number of injuries that struck his Giants last year made it impossible to gauge the squad.

But Perkins knows his third year had better produce. "We still are rebuilding," he said. "But there's no reason we can't win while rebuilding. I know the fans will expect more wins this year. And I'll expect more myself."

Perkins is entering the third year of his three-year contract, having won only 10 of 32 games in his first two seasons. There have been some bright spots, like a four-game winning streak in 1979 and back-to-back victories last year, including the Giants' first win over Dallas since 1974. But basically to the Giants' fans this has been a continuation of the mediocre-at-best play that has marked the once mighty franchise since its last post-season appearance way back in 1963.

The patience they exhibited during last year's 4-12 season (actually down from 6-10 in '79) can be traced to the string of injuries that struck, starting last spring. That's when Dan Lloyd, one of the defensive mainstays during that four-game win streak in '79, announced he was suffering from lymphoma, a form of cancer. And that's when backup center Keith Eck suffered a heart attack while in flight from California to a mini-camp in New Jersey.

The Giants finished the season with 19 players on the injured reserve list and after training camp they had 36 men on the list at one time or another.

Among those who missed all or part of the season on the inactive list were running backs Billy Taylor, Doug Kotar, and Leon Perry; wide receivers Johnny Perkins and Mike Friede, who had become the fans' favorite in just seven weeks with the team; offensive tackle Jeff Weston; defensive lineman Myron Lapka, the club's third-round draft choice in '80; linebackers Harry Carson (twice), Brian Kelley, John Skorupan, and Frank Marion; and defensive backs Terry Jackson, Mike Dennis, Gary Woolford, Bud Hebert, and Donnie Harris.

In addition, quarterback Phil Simms injured his shoulder against St. Louis and did not play in the final three games.

The constant diet of hurts prevented Ray Perkins from gaining any kind of continuity from his units. A repeat of the carnage is unlikely, so this should be the year the Perkins regime gets its true, and perhaps final, test.

Coaches: Ray Perkins, Ernie Adams, Bill Austin, Bill Belichick, Romeo Crenell, Freddy Glick, Pat Hodgson, Lamar Leachman, Bob Lord, Bill Parcells, Jim Williams.

NEW YORK GIANTS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth-date	College
62	Apuna, Ben	LB	6-1	222	2	6/26/57	Arizona State
60	Benson, Brad	T	6-3	258	4	11/25/55	Penn. State
23	Blount, Tony	S	6-1	195	2	11/5/58	Virginia
12	Brunner, Scott	QB	6-5	200	2	3/24/57	Delaware
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	235	6	11/26/53	South Carolina State
56	Clack, Jim	C	6-3	250	11	10/28/47	Wake Forest
18	Danelo, Joe	K	5-9	166	7	9/2/53	Washington State
46	Dennis, Mike	CB	5-10	190	2	6/6/58	Wyoming
63	Falcon, Terry	G	6-3	260	4	8/30/55	Montana
22	Felton, Eric	S-CB	6-0	200	4	10/8/55	Texas Tech
68	Friede, Mike	WR	6-3	205	2	9/22/57	Indiana
25	Garrett, Alvin	RB	5-7	178	2	10/1/56	Angelo State
83	Gray, Earnest	WR	6-3	195	3	3/2/57	Memphis State
37	Harris, Don	S	6-2	185	4	2/8/54	Rutgers
36	Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	185	2	11/6/58	Colorado
27	Hebert, Larry	RB	5-11	205	2	1/9/58	Arizona
26	Hebert, Bud	S	6-0	190	2	10/12/56	Oklahoma
47	Henry, Steve	S	6-2	190	3	3/5/57	Emporia State
	Hughes, Ernie	G	6-3	250	3	1/24/55	Notre Dame
24	Jackson, Terry	CB	5-10	197	4	12/9/55	San Diego State
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	205	8	8/8/52	St. Lawrence

70	Jeter, Gary	DE	6-4	260	5	1/24/55	Southern California
89	Johnson, Dennis	TE	6-3	220	4	2/26/56	Mississippi State
84	Johnson, Nate	WR	5-11	192	2	5/12/57	Hillsdale
55	Kelley, Brian	LB	6-3	222	9	9/1/51	California Lutheran
72	King, Gordon	T	6-6	275	4	2/3/56	Stanford
33	King, Jerome	S-CB	5-10	175	3	1/4/55	Purdue
44	Kotar, Doug	RB	5-11	205	8	6/11/51	Kentucky
71	Lapka, Myron	DT	6-4	255	2	5/10/56	Southern California
74	Linnin, Chris	DT	6-4	250	2	5/4/57	Washington
54	Lloyd, Dan	LB	6-2	225	5	11/9/58	Washington
51	Marion, Frank	LB	6-3	228	4	3/16/51	Florida A&M
79	Markham, Dale	DE	6-8	290	2	7/24/57	North Dakota
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	245	7	2/16/53	Oregon
41	Matthews, Bo	RB	6-3	222	8	11/15/51	Colorado
76	McGriff, Curtis	DT	6-5	270	2	5/17/58	Alabama
52	McLaughlin, Joe	LB	6-1	235	3	7/1/57	Massachusetts
81	Mullady, Tom	TE	6-3	232	2	1/30/57	Southwestern
15	Olander, Cliff	QB	6-5	187	5	4/15/55	New Mexico State
21	Patterson, Don	CB	5-11	175	3	10/31/57	Georgia Tech
86	Perkins, Johnny	WR	6-2	205	5	4/21/53	Abilene Christian
30	Perry, Leon	FB	5-11	224	2	8/14/57	Mississippi
82	Pittman, Danny	WR	6-2	205	2	4/3/58	Wyoming
28	Raece, Beasley	S	6-1	195	6	3/18/54	North Texas State
34	Rivers, Nate	RB	6-3	215	2	8/21/55	South Carolina State
59	Saalfeld, Kelly	C	6-3	246	2	2/15/56	Nebraska
87	Shirk, Gary	TE	6-1	220	6	2/23/50	Morehead State
69	Simmons, Roy	G	6-3	264	3	11/8/56	Georgia Tech
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	216	3	11/3/55	Morehead State
65	Sinott, John	T	6-4	275	2	4/18/58	Brown
57	Skorupan, John	LB	6-3	225	9	5/17/51	Penn. State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Simms had three outstanding games in 1980—the season's opener in St. Louis and the back-to-back wins over Dallas and Green Bay in midseason. In those games he completed 51 of 97 for 925 yards and 11 TDs. Nevertheless the franchise-saver from Morehead State finished last in the NFC passing ratings, completing 48 percent of his throws for 2321 yards and 15 scores, but with 19 interceptions. He remains, however, the Giants' chief hope for offensive success. Backup man Scott Brunner exhibited a strong arm but little mobility in his three-game stint at the close of the season. Cliff Olander, former Charger, was the No. 3 man and he did not play a down.

Running backs—Taylor, who spends more time in Perkins' doghouse than anyone else, led the team in rushing again with a modest 580 yards. He also added 33 catches despite missing the first four games with knee troubles. His running mate late in the year was free agent Perry, who earned a longer look in '81 by gaining 272 yards (a 4.6 average) and blocking like a demon in late-season exposure. Behind them are Bo Matthews, the ex-Charger high draft pick who averaged only 2.8 per pop; Larry Heater, a waiver pickup from Kansas City who had some good moments at halfback; Kotar, a dependable veteran who must make it back from knee surgery just before the start of the 1980 season; and Nate Rivers, a fifth-round Eagle pick in '80 who did not see any action after signing on with the Giants in November.

Receivers—Earnest Gray had a good year with 52 catches for 777 yards and 10 scores. But the former Memphis Stater could have had much better stats were it not for a period of drowsy in midseason. He snapped out of it when Friede, a third-round Lion draft pick, arrived and managed 21 catches, many of the spectacular variety, before suffering a serious knee injury. His rehabilitation has been satisfactory, and he should return. Johnny Perkins, the oft-injured outside man, was ticketed for trade. Second-year man Danny Pittman, who showed some flashes, and speedy Nate Johnson are other outside hopefuls. Tom Mullady started off strong, then faded at tight end, so Gary Shirk again did most of the playing there at season's end. Former Buffalo running back Dennis Johnson and free agent Sam Bowers are other tight end candidates.

Offensive line—Progress was made in this area, but the unit is not settled as yet. Veteran Jim Clack is nearing retirement, which means Brad Benson, the starting left tackle; backup



No. 13 Dave Jennings

man Kelly Saalfeld, the long snapper; and possibly defensive tackle Phil Tabor, whose twin brother Paul is a Chicago pivot, could be tried in the middle. J. T. Turner had a solid season at right guard while the immensely talented Roy Simmons suffered from inexperience at left guard. Gordon King, another oft-injured high draft pick, played his best ball in the final three games after recovering from a foot problem. Weston, who looked good in making the transition from defense, and John Sinnott, a St. Louis draft pick, are other possibilities at tackle while Terry Falcon and former 49er Ernie Hughes, signed as a free agent, are the reserves at guard.

DEFENSE

Line—In 1980, for the third straight season the Giants started out as a 4-3 team and wound up playing the 3-4. Now Perkins says he's committed to the three-man front and was looking for a noseguard. Rookie Curtis McGriff, a free agent, played it most of the time in 1980 but George Small and Tabor also saw action there. Free agent Larry Stewart will join the tussle in training camp. Gary Jeter and George Martin were fine at the ends but Lapka, who showed promise in spot play after returning from the injured list, might find more work this time. Huge Dale Markham (6' 8",

280 pounds) signed on late in the year and will get a camp look.

Linebackers—The quartet of Brad Van Pelt, Carson, Lloyd, and Kelley was the Giants' pride and joy in 1979. But none of the four played in last year's season's finale against Oakland. Instead, Mike Whittington, Kervin Wyatt, Joe McLaughlin, and Kevin Turner were holding down the fort. Perkins is hopeful several of the youngsters will continue to develop; that Kelley has overcome his knee problems; that Carson is physically and psychologically ready (he almost retired in mid-season last year after getting off to a poor start); and that maybe Lloyd, whose cancer was in remission after a year of treatment, might be able to play again in '81. Others who saw playing time a year ago included Skorupan, who had a fine season before injuring a knee; Marion, the special teams captain; free agent pickup Ben Apuna; and Chris Linnin, who started the year as a defensive end and may wind up as a noseguard.

Secondary—Top draft pick Mark Haynes was supposed to step right into the secondary, but instead free agent Mike Dennis was the top rookie performer in the defensive backfield. Dennis wound up leading the team with five interceptions. Haynes began showing his potential in late season and with Jackson, who had two good years before slipping a bit last fall, recovered from a shoulder injury, Perkins should be three-deep on the corners. Beasley Reece is the incumbent at strong safety but faces challenges from Tony Blount, who lost most of his rookie year to knee surgery, and Larry Flowers, who spent the entire year on injured reserve. Free safety is wide open among Gary Woolford, who played there most of last season; Bud Hebert, who started a few games; Steve Henry, a Cardinal castoff; Harris, a former Redskin; and possibly Mike Snow, a free agent who left camp last summer. The presence of former Saint Eric Felton as cornerback insurance could allow Perkins to shift one of his corners to free safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Dave Jennings led the NFL in punting with a 44.8 average despite being troubled by contract negotiations throughout the year. He's topnotch. So is placekicker Joe Danelo, who came back from a slow start to hit 11 of his last 12 field goal tries. Alvin Garrett provided some explosiveness on punt returns but wound up with a modest 8.2 average. Reece, Pittman, Haynes, and Nate Johnson all helped Garrett on kickoff returns, but without significant success.

78	Small, George	G	6-3	250	2	1/18/56	North Carolina A&T
80	Tabor, Phil	DT	6-4	285	3	11/30/56	Oklahoma
38	Taylor, Billy	RB	6-0	215	4	7/6/56	Texas Tech
52	Tubin, Steve	T	6-4	258	2	3/29/57	Minnesota
68	Turner, J. T.	G	6-3	250	5	4/17/53	Duke
66	Turner, Kevin	LB	6-2	225	2	2/5/58	Pacific
10	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	5	4/5/51	Michigan State
73	Weston, Jeff	G	6-5	250	3	4/10/56	Notre Dame
58	Whittington, Mike	LB	6-2	220	2	2/9/58	Notre Dame
20	Woolford, Gary	S	6-6	180	2	5/4/54	Florida State
61	Wyatt, Kervin	LB	6-1	235	2	10/17/57	Maryland

THE DRAFT

Perkins got the man considered the best player in the nation a year ago, linebacker Lawrence Taylor of North Carolina. The 6'3", 245-pound Taylor is considered a good bet to become a dominating defensive player. Despite the offensive needs, the Giants could not afford to pass up a player like the Tar Heel terror.

Ten of the next 13 picks were used for offensive players. Although none of the so-called big-name running backs were added, Perkins has hopes for three small-college products: Cliff Chatman of Central State (Okla.) (No. 4), Ed O'Neal of Tuskegee (No. 6A), and Louis Jackson of Cal Poly-SLO (No. 7).

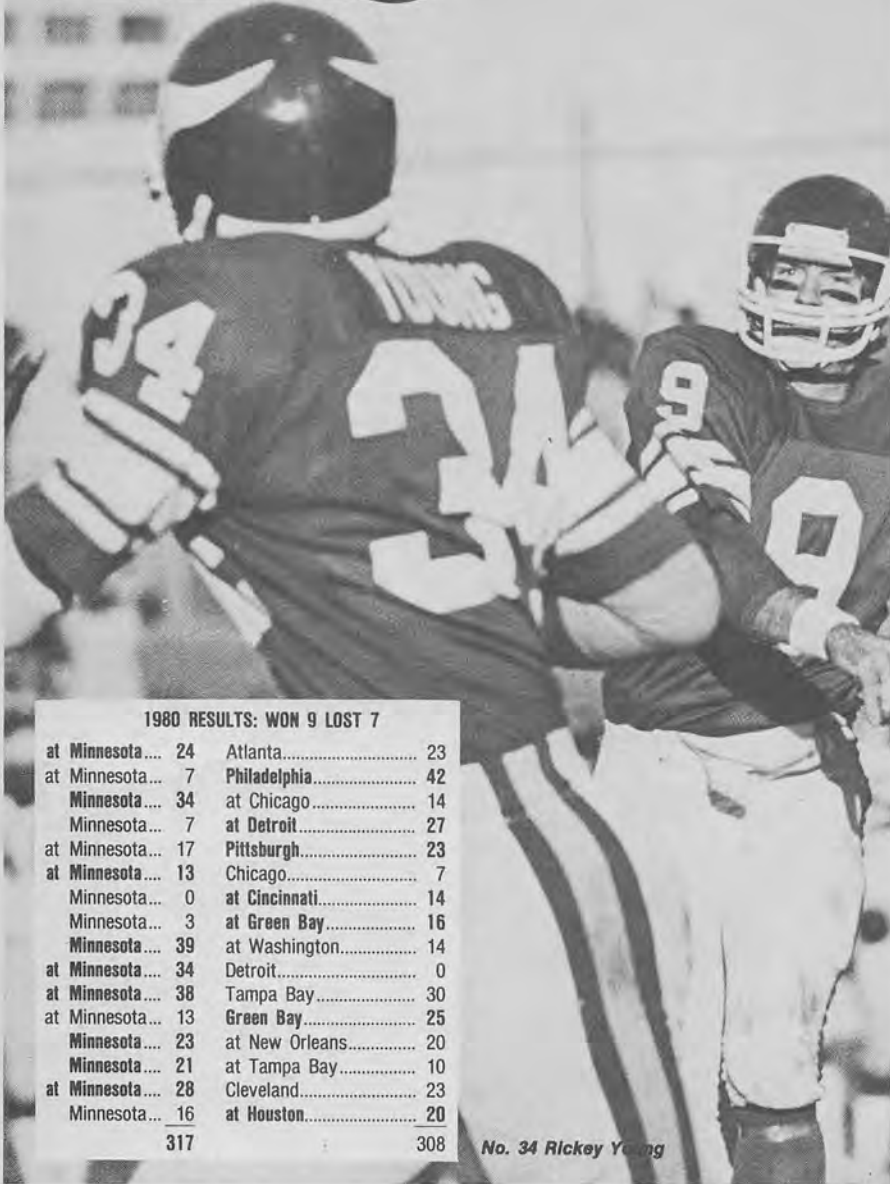
Tight end Dave Young of Purdue (No. 2) and wide receiver John Myster of Arizona State (No. 3) should provide Simms with two surehanded targets.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Lawrence Taylor	2	LB	North Carolina
2	Dave Young	32	TE	Purdue
3	John Myster	50	WR	Arizona State
4	Clifford Chatman	88	RB	Central State (OK)
5	Bill Nott	115	ST	Pittsburgh
6	(Choice to San Diego)			
6	(From Green Bay)			
7	Neil Heaver	145	WR	Arizona State
8	(From Philadelphia)			
9	Edward O'Neal	165	RB	Tuskegee
10	Louis Jackson	168	RB	Cal Poly-SLO
11	John Powers	197	OG	Michigan
12	(From Denver)			
13	Mark Rose	207	QB	Morehead State
14	(From Oakland)			
15	Bill Ard	221	OG	Wake Forest
16	Byron Hunt	224	LB	Southern Methodist
17	Mike Barker	250	DT	Grambling
18	(Choice to San Diego)			
19	Mike Mahar	307	TE	Western Illinois



Minnesota VIKINGS



1980 RESULTS: WON 9 LOST 7

at Minnesota....	24	Atlanta.....	23
at Minnesota....	7	Philadelphia.....	42
Minnesota....	34	at Chicago.....	14
Minnesota....	7	at Detroit.....	27
at Minnesota....	17	Pittsburgh.....	23
at Minnesota....	13	Chicago.....	7
Minnesota....	0	at Cincinnati.....	14
Minnesota....	3	at Green Bay.....	16
Minnesota....	39	at Washington.....	14
at Minnesota....	34	Detroit.....	0
at Minnesota....	38	Tampa Bay.....	30
at Minnesota....	13	Green Bay.....	25
Minnesota....	23	at New Orleans.....	20
Minnesota....	21	at Tampa Bay.....	10
at Minnesota....	28	Cleveland.....	23
Minnesota....	16	at Houston.....	20
317		308	

No. 34 Rickey Young

While everyone was watching the front door to see if Tampa Bay would walk in again; or Detroit, with Billy Sims, would make it all the way up from the basement; or Chicago, with Walter Payton, would finally cross the threshold, in through the back door came the Minnesota Vikings!

The team that once dominated the so-called Black and Blue Division was picked by many to finish in the middle of the NFC Central Division in 1980. It was, and still is, a team in transition.

Gone are Fran Tarkenton, Mick Tinglehoff, Chuck Foreman, Stu Voigt, Ed White, Carl Eller, Alan Page, Jim Marshall, Wally Hilgenberg, Paul Krause, Fred Cox, and some of the others who helped Bud Grant reach four Super Bowls in an eight-year period from 1970 through 1977.

But Grant has been mixing in the new players, and last year came up with a decent enough arrangement to win six of the last eight games and also the NFC Central title with a modest 9-7 record. The play-off loss to Philadelphia proved to everyone the Vikes still have not reached their past level of excellence. Yet there were many who thought the team would take a lot longer to rebuild.

Grant, whose take-it-easy style differs from the many taskmasters throughout the league, had the top passing team in the NFC last year and should be right up there again in 1981. But his rushing game was next-to-last and his defense, on the whole, ranked 12th out of the 14 units in the NFC (only San Francisco and New Orleans gave up more yardage).

"We managed to limit our mistakes," said Grant, referring to the Vikings' amazing statistics. There were only three Viking fumbles lost while they recovered 14 opponent bobbles. The Vikes' penalty-yardage total was nearly 200 yards below that of their opponents. Minnesota blocked five kicks while having only one of its own stifled. And the defense intercepted 4.8 percent of the other teams' passes while the Viking offense (Tommy Kramer, to be specific) had 4.0 percent of his throws picked off by the opposition.

Ironically, the mistake-free season ended in December. In their January play-off game with Philadelphia, the Vikings turned the ball over eight times with five interceptions for a final losing score of 31-16. They lost as many fumbles in that one game as they did in the entire regular season.

That game in Philly was a perfect example of the Vikings' season. Few expected Minnesota to advance past the Eagles. Fewer, however, had expected the "Vikes" even to get to Philadelphia.

Coaches: Bud Grant, Jerry Burns, Jim Carr, Tom Cecchini, Bob Hollway, Bus Mertes, John Michels, Floyd Reese.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth- date	College
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5	229	8	9/20/51	Iowa State
62	Boyd, Brent	G	6-3	260	2	3/23/57	UCLA
23	Brown, Ted	RB	5-10	198	3	2/22/57	North Carolina State
82	Bruer, Bob	TE	6-5	235	3	5/22/53	Mankato State
24	Brune, Larry	S	6-2	200	2	5/4/53	Rice
20	Bryant, Bobby	CB	6-1	170	13	1/24/44	South Carolina
24	Cobb, Marvin	S	6-0	188	7	8/6/53	Southern California
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	178	5	9/9/54	Florida A&M
7	Danneberg, Rick	K	6-0	183	4	4/8/52	Sioux Falls
12	Dils, Steve	QB	6-1	190	3	12/8/55	Stanford
61	Hamilton, Wes	G	6-3	255	6	4/24/53	Tulsa
45	Hannon, Tom	S	5-11	193	5	3/5/55	Michigan State
75	Holloway, Randy	DE	6-5	245	4	8/26/55	Pittsburgh
51	Hough, Jim	C-G	6-2	267	4	8/4/56	Utah State
56	Huffman, Dave	C-G	6-6	255	3	4/4/57	Notre Dame
32	Johnson, Dennis	LB	6-3	230	2	6/19/58	Southern California
53	Johnson, Henry	LB	6-1	235	2	3/20/58	Georgia Tech
25	Knoff, Kurt	S	6-2	188	6	4/6/54	Kansas

9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-1	199	5	3/7/55	Rice
58	Langer, Jim	C	6-2	253	10	5/16/48	South Dakota State
80	Le Count, Terry	WR	5-10	172	4	7/9/56	Florida
79	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	258	2	5/22/57	Washington
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2	229	8	5/6/52	UCLA
87	Miller, Kevin	WR	5-10	180	4	3/21/55	Louisville
35	Miller, Robert	RB	5-11	204	7	1/9/53	Kansas
68	Mitchell, Melvin	G	6-3	260	5	2/21/53	Tennessee State
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	242	7	4/30/53	Colorado State
49	Nord, Keith	S	6-0	197	3	3/13/57	St. Cloud, Minnesota
40	Paschal, Doug	RB	6-2	219	2	3/5/58	North Carolina
36	Payton, Eddie	KR	5-6	179	5	8/3/51	Jackson State
28	Rashad, Ahmad	WR	6-2	200	9	11/19/49	Oregon
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6	253	8	11/23/52	Southern California
76	Roller, Dave	OT	6-2	270	8	10/28/49	Kentucky
89	Sanders, Ken	DE	6-5	245	10	8/22/50	Howard Payne
81	Senser, Joe	TE	6-4	238	2	8/10/56	West Chester, Pa.
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB	6-3	237	10	6/2/50	Stanford
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	224	5	8/27/54	Illinois
69	Sutherland, Doug	DT	6-3	250	11	4/1/48	Superior, Wisc.
67	Swilley, Dennis	G	6-3	241	5	6/28/55	Texas A&M
27	Turner, John	CB	6-0	199	4	2/22/56	Miami
71	Vella, John	T	6-4	260	10	4/21/50	Southern California
72	White, James	DT	6-3	263	6	10/26/53	Oklahoma State
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11	189	6	3/16/54	Grambling
73	Yary, Rom	T	6-6	255	14	8/16/46	Southern California
34	Young, Rickey	RB	6-2	195	6	12/12/53	Jackson State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Kramer hasn't made them forget Tarkenton, but he has put together a pair of outstanding seasons that have grossed the Vikings nearly 7000 yards in passing. The former Rice star, who relies more on touch than arm strength, must improve on that touchdown-interception ratio which last year was 19-23, and the year before was 23-24. He helped achieve that miracle win over Cleveland with his desperation 46-yard heave to Ahmad Rashad after an even more spectacular Kramer-to-Joe Senser-to-Ted Brown razzle-dazzle put the team in position for the winning score. Steve Dils, Kramer's backup, was 63 percent accurate on 51 tries last year and did not throw an interception while tossing three TDs. Grant is set with two good young ones under center.

Running backs—Ted Brown paced the team with 912 yards rushing and added 62 receptions while scoring 10 times. While he's not the dominating back, his versatility à la Chuck Foreman makes him an important part of the Viking attack. His running mate, or rather "catching mate," is Rickey Young, who has caught more passes than any other back in recent years. Young latched on to 64 a year ago, but added only 351 yards (2.7 average) on the ground. The backups, Robert Miller and second-year man Doug Paschal, combined for 151 rushing yards and 12 receptions while Eddie Payton was employed mostly as a kick returner. Sam Harrell, a draft pick injured last year, will get another shot in '81.

Receivers—To throw effectively, a quarterback must have talented receivers, and Kramer is blessed in that regard. In addition to his backs, he has the great Ahmad Rashad, whose yardage total (1095) was second only to Green Bay's James Lofton (1226) in the NFC; Sammy White, who added 887 yards on 53 catches, 16 fewer than Rashad; and tight end Joe Senser, who took the job from veterans Bob Tucker and Stu Voigt (who was released in midseason) with 42 catches, seven for TDs. Terry LeCount (13 catches) and Kevin Miller are the backup wide receivers while Tucker, if he returns, and former 49er Bob Bruer support Senser.

Offensive line—Injuries hit the offensive front throughout the season and only two members, center Dennis Swilley and tackle Steve Riley, started every game. And Swilley had to be taken out of the play-off game because of an injury. The surprise of the season was former UCLA center Brent Boyd, who started six games at left guard and three at right guard while Jim Hough (knee surgery)



No. 82 Sammy White

and Wes Hamilton (ankle) were nursing injuries. There should be a three-man battle for the two spots in '81. Swilley performed more than adequately at center, backed by former Dolphin All-Pro Jim Langer. Ron Yary, who got a late start because of a broken bone in his ankle, will be entering his 14th season at the right tackle while Riley will vie with third-year man Dave Huffman and free agent Greg Murtha, an Eagle draftee in '80, at left tackle. Former Raider John Vella backs Yary on the right.

DEFENSE

Line—The Vikings have drafted high and often to replenish this area where the dreaded

Purple Gang once roamed. A year ago their top draft pick was Doug Martin, who reported late because of contract problems, but by season's end had ousted Randy Holloway (No. 1 pick in '78) at right end. Mark Mullaney (No. 1 in '75) holds down the left end while James White (No. 1 in '76) is the left tackle. Still the leader in sacks with a modest 5½ was veteran Doug Sutherland, the right tackle. The unit combined for only 30 sacks, a figure that must improve if the Vikings are to better their 1980 finish. Veteran tackle Dave Roller and Ray Yakavonis, a defensive end prospect sidelined all of 1980, are other hopefuls along the defensive front.

Linebackers—Jeff Siemon's place used to be between Matt Blair and Fred McNeill in one of the top linebacking trios in the league. But last year Siemon was slowed by a preseason ankle injury and yielded his job to Scott Studwell. The steady but unspectacular Studwell led the club in unassisted tackles with 98. Blair, a Pro Bowler for the fourth straight time, made 75 stops on his own while McNeill added 55. Behind the outside pair are a couple of Johnsons drafted in 1980: Dennis, the fourth-round choice out of USC, and Henry, the seventh-round pick from Georgia Tech.

Secondary—John Turner had an excellent season in his third year out of Miami (Florida), leading the team with six interceptions from his left cornerback spot. With veteran Bobby Bryant coming to the end of a fine career, Grant has pencilled in Willie Teal, last year's No. 2 draft pick, as the right corner. The safeties, while not the quickest duo, are a couple of hitters. Kurt Knoff was second in team tackles with 80 from his free safety spot, while Tom Hannon was third with 78 hits from the strong safety spot. They also combined for seven interceptions. Nickel back Keith Nord, CFL repatriot Larry Brune and a pair of players who finished up last season on injured reserve, Tim Baylor and Marvin Cobb, are the reserve safeties.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rick Danmeier was good, 15-of-18 good, on field goal tries from inside the 40. But he was bad, 1-for-8 bad, on kicks from beyond the 40-yard stripe. Greg Coleman ranked near the bottom of the punters' list with his 38.8 average, but did manage to drop 20 kicks inside the opposition's 20-yard line. Payton did just about all of the returns, averaging 7.4 on punts and 22.3 on kickoffs, but he committed the fumble that turned around the play-off game in Philadelphia. Of the five blocked kicks, three were by tight end Senser, a 6' 4" former collegiate basketball star.

THE DRAFT

The Vikings traded their No. 1 pick to Baltimore for a pair of twos and made a pretty good three-player haul on the second round. Wide receiver Mardy McDole from Mississippi State is a multi-talented player who can run, catch, and return kicks. Texas linebacker Robin Sendlein could challenge in the middle, while Nebraska running back Jarvis Redwine adds speed.

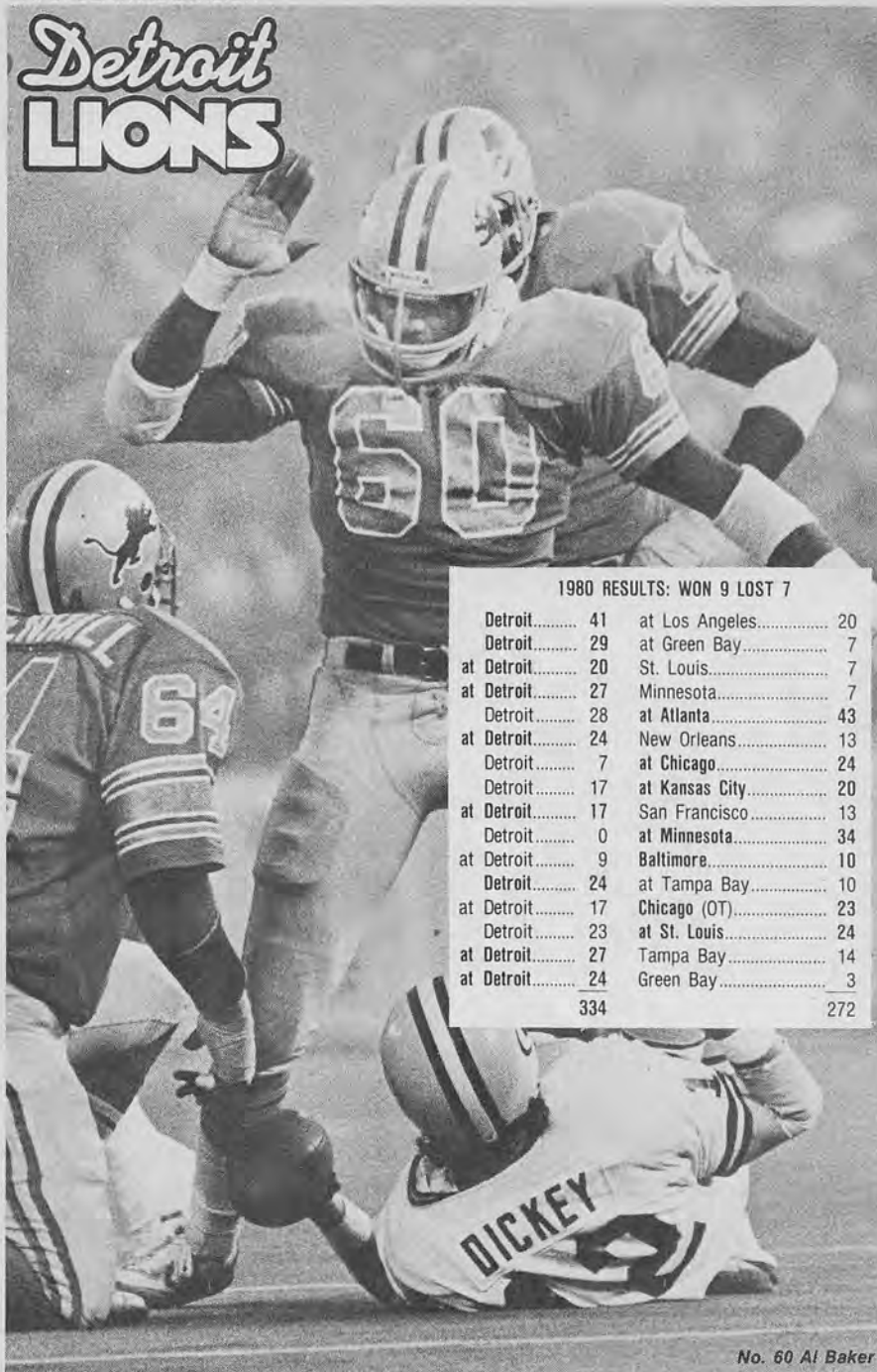
Tennessee's Tim Irwin, a tackle who most think has his best days ahead, could work his way into the offensive line in time. Two of the Vikings' lower picks were small-college stars: Kutztown State running back Don Shaver, and East Texas quarterback and punter Wade Wilson.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	(Choice to Baltimore)			
2.	(From Baltimore)			
	Mardy McDole	39	WR	Mississippi State
2.	Robin Sendlein	45	LB	Texas
2.	(From Los Angeles)			
	Jarvis Redwine	52	RB	Nebraska
3.	(Choice to New Orleans)			
3.	(From New England)			
	Tim Irwin	74	DT	Tennessee
4.	John Swain	101	DB	Miami (FL)
5.	(From Baltimore)			
	Wendell Ray	123	DE	Missouri
5.	(Choice to New Orleans)			
6.	(Choice to Miami)			
7.	Don Shaver	184	RB	Kutztown State (PA)
8.	Wade Wilson	210	P-QB	East Texas State
9.	(Choice to Seattle)			
10.	James Murphy	266	WR	Utah State
11.	William Stephenson	293	OT	Boston College
12.	Brian Williams	320	TE	Southern U.



Detroit LIONS



No. 60 Al Baker

1980 RESULTS: WON 9 LOST 7

Detroit.....	41	at Los Angeles.....	20
Detroit.....	29	at Green Bay.....	7
at Detroit.....	20	St. Louis.....	7
at Detroit.....	27	Minnesota.....	7
Detroit.....	28	at Atlanta.....	43
at Detroit.....	24	New Orleans.....	13
Detroit.....	7	at Chicago.....	24
Detroit.....	17	at Kansas City.....	20
at Detroit.....	17	San Francisco.....	13
Detroit.....	0	at Minnesota.....	34
at Detroit.....	9	Baltimore.....	10
Detroit.....	24	at Tampa Bay.....	10
at Detroit.....	17	Chicago (OT).....	23
Detroit.....	23	at St. Louis.....	24
at Detroit.....	27	Tampa Bay.....	14
at Detroit.....	24	Green Bay.....	3
334		272	

Early last season, when the Detroit Lions were beating everyone in sight, the players adopted "Another One Bites the Dust" as their official theme song.

Later last season, when the Detroit Lions were losing to everyone in sight, a local radio station suggested the club's theme song should be, "Another One Kicks Our Butts."

At the end of last season the Lions' musical charts listed nine dust-biters compared to seven butt-kickers, which was a major improvement over 1979 when only two clubs bit the dust at the paws of the clawless Lions. Head coach Monte Clark thinks the contrasts of the two seasons will help his players continue their upward climb in 1981.

"There's good reason to be optimistic," Clark says. "Most of the squad has experienced both sides of the business; the losing side, and last year the winning side of it. We not only have talent, but we have people who are dependable and stick together. The spirit around here has been great and we're counting on good things to happen."

Clark and the Lions appeared on the way to the greatest turnaround in NFL history early last season when they jumped out to a 5-1 mark. But six losses in the last 10 games, three by three points or less and a fourth on that incredible Thanksgiving Day finish against the Bears, cost the club a spot in the playoffs.

But it was a dramatic change from the injury-filled '79 campaign, a transformation illustrated by the return of quarterback Gary Danielson, the arrival of running back Billy Sims, and some tough overall play on both sides of the football.

Overall, the Lions ranked third on offense and second on defense in the conference. Detroit was second in running the ball among the NFC clubs and the best at stopping the other guy's running game.

It all amounted to a second-place finish in the Central Division, and a loss of the championship on a match of cards with the Vikings. "I was very proud the way the squad stuck together, even after the playoffs were out of the picture," said Clark. "The team still wanted that winning record, that satisfaction."

"I don't make promises or predictions, just commitments. I think our team is aiming for the same things and I think the cohesiveness will be an important weapon for us this year. We've been through a lot together and everyone has worked hard. I'm excited about the prospects in 1981."

If the Lions continue their rise, the theme song for 1981 might be "There's No Place Like Home." Super Bowl XVI will be played this January in the Pontiac Silverdome, home of the Lions.

Coaches: Monte Clark, Maxie Baughan, John Brunner, Don Doll, Fred Hoaglin, Joe Madden, Floyd Peters, Mel Phillips, Bob Schneker, Larry Seiple, Gary Wade.

DETROIT LIONS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
40	Allen, Jimmy	S	6-2	195	8	3/6/52	UCLA
47	Arnold, John	WR-KR	5-10	170	3	10/5/55	Wyoming
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	250	4	12/9/56	Colorado State
76	Baldschwieler, Karl	T	6-5	265	4	1/19/56	Oklahoma
73	Bolinger, Russ	G	6-5	255	5	9/10/54	California State-Long Beach
27	Bradley, Luther	S-CB	6-2	195	4	5/7/55	Notre Dame
24	Bussey, Dexter	RB	6-1	210	8	3/11/52	Texas-Arlington
31	Callicutt, Ken	RB	6-0	190	4	8/20/55	Clatsop
53	Cobb, Garry	LB	6-2	210	3	3/16/57	Southern California
50	Cole, Eddie	LB	6-2	235	3	12/16/56	Mississippi
16	Danielson, Gary	QB	6-2	195	5	9/10/51	Purdue
72	Dieterich, Chris	T	6-3	269	2	7/27/58	North Carolina State
70	Dorney, Keith	T	6-5	285	3	12/3/57	Penn. State
61	Elias, Homer	G	6-3	255	4	5/1/55	Tennessee State
57	Fantetti, Ken	LB	6-2	230	3	4/7/57	Wyoming
65	Fowler, Amos	C	6-3	250	4	2/11/56	Southern Mississippi
79	Gay, William	DE	6-3	250	4	5/28/55	Southern California
86	Gina, Tommie	G	6-3	255	2	1/25/58	Arkansas
51	Harrell, James	LB	6-2	215	3	2/19/57	Florida
81	Hill, David	TE	6-2	230	6	1/1/54	Texas A&M

17	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-1	196	2	9/16/57	Utah State
28	Hunter, James	CB	6-2	195	6	3/8/54	Grambling
32	Kane, Rick	RB	6-0	200	5	11/12/54	San Jose State
25	King, Horace	RB	5-10	210	7	3/5/53	Georgia
19	Komlo, Jeff	QB	6-2	200	3	7/30/56	Delaware
68	Lawless, Burton	G	6-4	256	7	11/1/53	Florida
48	Lewis, Eddie	S-CB	6-0	175	6	12/15/53	Kansas
59	Luce, Derrel	LB	6-3	227	7	9/29/52	Baylor
64	Mendenhall, John	DT	6-1	255	10	12/3/48	Grambling
3	Murray, Ed	K	5-9	165	2	8/20/56	Tulane
80	Norris, Ulysses	TE	6-4	225	3	1/15/57	Georgia
25	Oldham, Ray	S	5-11	192	9	2/23/51	Middle Tennessee
61	Parker, Willie	C	6-3	245	10	12/28/48	North Texas State
75	Pureifory, Dave	DE	6-1	255	10	7/12/49	Eastern Michigan
36	Robinson, Bo	RB	6-2	225	3	5/27/56	West Texas State
87	Scott, Fred	WR	6-2	175	8	8/5/52	Amherst
63	Simmons, Davie	LB	6-4	218	3	1/19/57	North Carolina
20	Sims, Billy	RB	6-0	212	2	9/18/55	Oklahoma
15	Skidaway, Tom	P	6-0	195	13	8/29/55	Ohio State
44	Smith, Wayne	CB	6-0	170	2	5/9/57	Purdue
84	Thompson, Jesse	WR	6-1	185	3	3/12/56	California
39	Thompson, Leonard	WR	5-11	190	7	7/28/52	Oklahoma State
71	Tuinet, Tom	DT	6-4	250	2	2/21/58	Hawaii
55	Turner, Tom	C	6-3	243	2	7/9/57	Washington
76	Walters, Rod	G	6-3	258	5	2/27/54	Iowa
59	Weaver, Charlie	LB	6-2	225	10	7/12/49	Southern California
52	White, Stan	LB	6-1	224	10	10/24/49	Ohio State
74	Whited, Mike	T	6-4	250	2	3/30/58	Pacific
30	Williams, Ray	KR-WR	5-9	173	2	9/22/58	Washington State
21	Williams, Walt	CB	6-1	185	5	7/10/54	New Mexico State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Danielson had established himself as the team's leader during the latter days of the 1978 season. So when he was struck down by a knee injury just prior to the start of the '79 campaign, the entire club fell apart. Last year he returned in strong fashion, ranking fifth among NFC passers and throwing a conference-low 11 interceptions. His 3223 yards set a club mark, as did his 244 completions. And again, he provided the on-the-field leadership needed by all winning teams. With Danielson healthy, Jeff Komlo, who quarterbacked most of '79, was limited to four pass attempts in '80. And Eric Hipple, a fourth-round draft pick with promise, was limited to holding for placements.

Running backs—Billy Sims did not disappoint the team that made him the No. 1 selection in the 1980 draft. "What impressed me the most about Billy was the way he wanted to be treated like everyone else," said Clark. "Rookies always carry the projectors on the road, and Billy did his share of carrying like the rest." And when he wasn't carrying projectors, he was carrying the football 313 times for 1303 yards, and scored 13 TDs to tie Houston's Earl Campbell in that category. He also caught 51 passes (he only caught three in his collegiate career at Oklahoma) and scored three more times to make him the most frequent end zone visitor in the league last year. His presence helped running mate Dexter Bussey to a lofty 5.0 average on 720 yards. Behind the regulars are one-time starters Rick Kane, Horace King, and Bo Robinson, plus special teamer Ken Callicut.

Receivers—Sims' reception total ranked him second on the team behind top outside threat Freddie Scott, who caught 53 for a 15.7 average and four scores. The position opposite Freddie, however, was in flux most of the season. The unrelated Thompsons, Leonard (19 catches, 3 TDs) and Jesse (11 catches, 0 TDs), shared time with rookie Ray Williams (10 catches, 1 TD), who had been drafted as a kick returner. DeWayne Jett, a ninth-round choice in '80, gets another shot after sitting out his rookie year with a leg injury. John Arnold, another return man, will vie for a receiving spot, too. Tight end David Hill had another steady season with 39 catches, although he scored just once. His backup is Ulysses Norris.

Offensive line—The most overlooked skill in pro football, the center snap, cost the Lions in 1980. Danielson fumbled the snap 11 times, and couldn't get the handle correctly on several other occasions, leading to botched handoffs. The problem: a fractured bone in Amos Fowler's leg. Fowler, the regular pivot,



missed several games and was not in top shape when he returned. Meanwhile, rookie Tom Turnure and vet Willie Parker tried to fill the spot, but both went out with knee injuries. Finally, rookie guard Tommie Ginn, who hadn't played center since high school, wound up starting three games. Injuries also hit tackle Keith Dorney (knee surgery), guard Homer Elias (leg), and guard Russ Bolinger (leg), leaving tackle Karl Baldischwiler as the only full-season starter. That meant veteran Burton Lawless and rookies Ginn, Chris Dieterich, and Mike Whitted, plus the reserve centers, had to fill in at times throughout the season, costing the unit the cohesiveness it needs.

DEFENSE

Line—Bubba Baker made it to the Pro Bowl again on the strength of his 18 quarterback sacks. But when the Lions voted for their defensive MVP, the winner was the other end, journeyman Dave Pureifory, who had seven sacks. At any rate, with Baker (57 sacks in 48 NFL games) and Pureifory, the Lions are well protected at the flanks. Doug English's sud-

den retirement and a contract walkout by John Woodcock stripped the Lions of two top-flight tackles. Clark had to scramble to fill the spots but got adequate play from former Giant John Mendenhall, backup end William Gay, rookie Tom Tuinei, and vet Curley Culp (since released) to earn the Lions that No. 1 ranking against the rush, and total 44 sacks of opposing passers. Much of the credit must go to coach Floyd Peters, now considered one of the top defensive line mentors in the league.

Linebackers—Clark was disappointed that second-year middle linebacker Ken Fantetti did not make the Pro Bowl after he led the team with 85 tackles and 45 assists. Fantetti is flanked by former Colt Stan White, who called the defensive signals and made 73 solo tackles, and Charlie Weaver, who returned after a season full of injuries. White, however, was considering retirement. Behind the starting three are youngsters like Eddie Cole, Garry Cobb, and James Harrell, all of whom got some playing time during the injury siege of '79. Veteran Derrel Luce and former Green Bay Packer Dave Simmons, claimed on waivers the final week of the season, also are bidding for spots.

Secondary—The Lions upped their theft total from 14 to 23, mainly on the work of cornerback James Hunter and free safety Jimmy Allen, who had six apiece. The two were the stalwarts of a defensive backfield that saw injuries cause reshuffling at the other two spots. Luther Bradley's knee problem gave journeyman Ray Oldham a chance at strong safety, and he responded with three interceptions. And Wayne Smith, a No. 11 draft pick from Purdue, started the final eight games at left corner after Walt Williams was sidelined. Former 49er Eddie Lewis also will be looking for work as a nickel back in 1981.

SPECIAL TEAMS

While Sims got most of the rookie glory, another first-year man also was a key contributor last year. In fact, placekicker Eddie Murray went on to win MVP honors in the Pro Bowl. Murray, a seventh-round pick, was good on 27 of 42 field goal tries and missed only one of 36 PAT attempts in totalling 116 points, tops in the conference and third in the league. No one kicked more field goals than Murray. Tom Skladany averaged 42.2 on his punts, giving the Lions a top pair of kickers. Ray Williams, a 12th-round choice as a return man from Washington State, was injured at the start of the season. But he came on to average 25.3 on nine kickoff returns, including a 91-yard TD romp. He also averaged 9.6 on 27 punt returns. Kane (21.5 on 23 kickoffs) and Arnold (7.3 on 28 punts) are the other return men.



THE DRAFT

The Lions added a big, fast wide receiver with their first pick in grabbing Mark Nichols, a San Jose State product whose stock with the pros increased in the East-West Game and Senior Bowl. The 6'11", 200-pound Nichols should help take some heat off Scott and the running game.

The rest of the draft was dotted with unknown quantities like Alabama State defensive end Curtis Green (No. 2) and Western Illinois guard Don Greco (No. 3). LSU's Tracy Porter should add speed as a receiver and returner, while depth and zip should be added to the offensive line with guards Greco, Larry Lee of UCLA (No. 5), and Lee Spivey of SMU (No. 7).

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Mark Nichols	16	WR	San Jose State
2.	Curtis Green	46	DE	Alabama
3.	Don Greco	72	OG	Western Illinois
4.	Tracy Porter	99	WR	Louisiana State
5.	Larry Lee	129	OG	UCLA
6.	Sam Johnson	155	DB	Maryland
7.	Lee Spivey	182	OT	Southern Methodist
8.	Bob Nizialek	211	TE	Colorado
9.	Hugh Jernigan	238	DB	Arkansas
9.	(From New England)			
	Dave Martin	240	DB	Villanova
10.	Andy Canavino	264	LB	Michigan
11.	Willie Jackson	294	DB	Mississippi State
12.	(Choice to Denver)			

Chicago BEARS

No. 8 Vince Evans

He may not have much to do with the day-to-day running of the team, but the unforgettable George Halas still has the loudest growl in the Chicago Bears' den. At the end of last season, Papa Bear roared that his team must update its offense and improve its signal calling.

Soon after, offensive coordinator Kenny Meyer resigned. Meyer had run an offense that featured the incomparable Walter Payton, yet except for a 61-point outburst against the Packers and a 35-point outing against Washington, it was docile most of the season.

General manager Jim Finks and coach Neill Armstrong began a search for a successor to Meyer, who some players felt was the scapegoat of the Bears' highly disappointing 7-9 season. "I want him to let his imagination run away with him," said Armstrong.

Ted Marchibroda, let your imagination take over! The former Baltimore Colts head coach, and one-time teammate of Finks at Pittsburgh, was the man selected to try to soothe the angry Papa Bear.

Marchibroda also was considered for the offensive coordinator slot in Houston (the absence of a coordinator had helped Bum Phillips' slide from good graces), but the Bears were more generous in their offer. His first duty will be to stabilize the Chicago quarterback situation, which at this point shows Vince Evans as the No. 1 man. But a year ago it was Mike Phipps in control. And the year before that it was Bob Avellini with the edge entering training camp.

Then Marchibroda will have to weave Payton, whose contract demands were also causing Papa Bear to do some roaring, into the updated attack. And finally he'll have to get that usually productive Bears' offensive line back on track.

Dick Stanfel, who finished the season as the interim coach of the infamous Saints from New Orleans, has been brought in to help with the line.

The Bears, despite setting a club record for first downs in a season, ranked 13th in NFC total offense, last in passing. With the defense ranked a creditable fifth, it's no secret where Chicago needs to improve. And that improvement better come quickly, or the next roar Armstrong hears from the club patriarch might well be aimed at him.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Phipps had piloted the Bears to nine wins in 10 starts in 1979, and had the job locked up entering 1980. But the former Cleveland quarterback got off to a 2-4 start and was replaced by Evans in the seventh game. Phipps threw only two passes the

1980 RESULTS: WON 7 LOST 9

Chicago.....	6	at Green Bay (OT).....	12
at Chicago.....	22	New Orleans.....	3
at Chicago.....	14	Minnesota.....	34
Chicago.....	3	at Pittsburgh.....	38
at Chicago.....	23	Tampa Bay.....	0
Chicago.....	7	at Minnesota.....	13
at Chicago.....	24	Detroit.....	7
Chicago.....	14	at Philadelphia.....	17
Chicago.....	21	at Cleveland.....	27
at Chicago.....	35	Washington.....	21
at Chicago.....	6	Houston.....	10
Chicago.....	17	at Atlanta.....	28
Chicago.....	23	Detroit (OT).....	17
at Chicago.....	61	Green Bay.....	7
at Chicago.....	14	Cincinnati (OT).....	17
Chicago.....	14	at Tampa Bay.....	13
304		264	

Coaches: Neill Armstrong, Dale Haupt, Hank Kuhlmann, Jim LaRue, Ted Marchibroda, Ted Plumb, Buddy Ryan, Dick Stanfel.

CHICAGO BEARS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Exp.	Birth date	College
64	Albrecht, Ted	T-G	6-4	250	5	10/8/54	California
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	210	7	8/28/53	Maryland
84	Baschnagel, Brian	WR-KR	6-0	184	6	1/8/54	Ohio State
49	Becker, Dave	S	6-2	190	2	1/15/57	Iowa
59	Campbell, Gary	LB	6-1	220	5	3/4/52	Colorado
87	Cobb, Mike	TE	6-5	243	5	12/10/55	Michigan State
81	Earl, Robin	TE	6-5	240	5	3/18/55	Washington
48	Ellis, Allan	CB	5-10	177	8	6/19/51	UCLA
8	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	212	5	6/14/55	Southern California
45	Fencilik, Gary	S	6-1	197	6	6/11/54	Yale
85	Fisher, Bob	TE	6-3	240	2	3/17/58	Southern Methodist
36	Gaines, Wentford	CB	6-0	185	4	2/4/53	Cincinnati
83	Haines, Kris	WR-KR	5-11	180	3	7/23/57	Notre Dame
99	Hampton, Dan	DT-DE	6-5	255	3	9/19/57	Arkansas
35	Harper, Roland	RB	5-11	210	6	2/28/53	Louisiana Tech
90	Harris, Al	DE	6-5	240	3	12/31/56	Arizona State
73	Hartenstine, Mike	DE	6-3	243	7	7/27/53	Penn State
51	Herron, Bruce	LB	6-2	220	4	4/14/54	New Mexico
54	Hicks, Tom	LB	6-4	235	6	12/18/52	Illinois

47	Hoke, Jonathan	CB	5-11	175	2	1/24/57	Ball State
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	265	7	4/14/51	Tampa
62	Jaggett, Dan	T	6-5	270	6	3/10/54	Harvard
57	Kunz, Lee	LB	6-2	225	3	4/21/57	Nebraska
88	Latta, Greg	TE	6-3	225	6	10/13/52	Morgan State
70	Lick, Dennis	T	6-3	265	6	4/26/54	Wisconsin
29	Lusby, Vaughn	KR-CB	5-10	181	2	8/23/56	Arkansas
37	McClendon, Willie	KR-RB	6-1	205	3	9/13/57	Georgia
71	Moore, Rocco	G	6-5	276	2	3/31/55	Western Michigan
58	Muckensturm, Jerry	LB	6-4	220	6	10/13/53	Arkansas State
52	Neal, Dan	C	6-4	255	9	8/30/49	Kentucky
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	245	9	9/7/49	Southern University
87	Page, Alan	DT	6-4	225	15	8/7/45	Notre Dame
86	Parsons, Bob	P	6-5	225	10	6/29/50	Penn State
34	Payton, Walter	RB	5-10	202	7	7/25/54	Jackson State
15	Phipps, Mike	QB	6-3	208	12	11/19/47	Purdue
46	Plank, Doug	S-KR	5-11	202	7	3/4/53	Ohio State
76	Rydalch, Ron	DT	6-4	250	7	1/1/52	Utah
44	Schmidt, Terry	CB	6-0	177	8	5/28/52	Ball State
72	Shearer, Brad	DT	6-3	247	3	8/10/55	Texas
30	Skibinski, John	RB	6-0	222	3	4/27/55	Purdue
69	Sorey, Revie	G	6-2	250	7	9/10/53	Illinois
26	Subey, Matt	RB-KR	5-11	212	2	7/7/58	Penn State
53	Tabor, Paul	C-G	6-4	241	2	11/30/56	Oklahoma
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	175	7	8/7/52	Notre Dame
23	Walterscheid, Lenny	S-KR	5-11	190	5	9/13/54	Southern Utah State
80	Watts, Rickey	WR	6-1	203	3	5/16/57	Tulsa
22	Williams, Dave	RB-KR	6-2	217	5	3/10/54	Colorado
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	222	2	9/15/57	Louisville

rest of the year. Evans, who had been sidelined with a staph infection in '79, completed 53 percent of his passes for 2039 yards and the poor TD-interception ratio of 11-16. He does add some quality out of the pocket as demonstrated by his 306 yards and eight rushing TDs (including the one that sent the exciting Thanksgiving Day game with Detroit into overtime). Avellini, the starter for three years, did not play a down in 1980.

Running backs—Payton remains magnificent. He won his fifth consecutive NFC rushing title with 1460 yards on 317 carries, with six touchdowns. He also caught 46 passes for 367 yards which meant he was involved in about one-third of all the Bears' offense. He now ranks fifth on the all-time NFL rushing list after only six seasons! His running mate most of last year was Roland Harper, who bounced back from a season lost to knee surgery to run for 404 yards and block in his normal outstanding fashion for his buddy Payton. With the starters getting most of the playing time, the reserves got few chances to carry the ball. Willie McClendon made the most of his with 88 yards on just 10 tries. Dave Williams added 57, John Skibinski 54, and rookie Matt Suhey 45 when Walter was resting.

Receivers—If the quarterback position isn't the Bears' longest-running problem, then tight end must be. The leading candidates entering 1981 are former running back Robin Earl, who caught 18 passes, and 12th-round draft pick Robert Fisher, who totaled 12 receptions for an impressive 16.9 average. But also in the running are two others who have spent time as regulars, Mike Cobb (out with pneumonia much of last year), and Greg Latta (a knee victim in '80). James Scott, the top outside threat, has jumped to Canada leaving Rickey Watts and Brian Baschnagel, who combined for 50 catches playing opposite Scott (36 catches) a year ago, as regulars. Chicago added Stanford's acrobatic but flakey Ken Margerum on the third round of the draft to help replace Scott.

Offensive line—The unit remained intact, but there was a slight drop-off in productivity last year. Tackles Dennis Lick and Ted Albrecht, guards Revie Sorey and Noah Jackson, and center Dan Neal weren't as consistent as they had been in the past. Still they allowed just 33 sacks while blocking for all that Payton yardage. The unit remained healthy and started all 16 games as a quintet, leaving little playing time for the subs. So rookie center Paul Tabor had to be content with making the long snaps on punts and placekicks. Tackle Dan Jiggett got into all but one game and guard Rocco Moore played in just seven.



No. 46 Doug Plank



No. 82 Alan Page

DEFENSE

Line—Old-Timer Alan Page and Young Kid Dan Hampton are the stalwarts up front for the Bears, who managed 46 sacks in 1980. Hampton, the second-year man from Arkansas, led the way with 11½ while also getting involved in 73 tackles. The 36-year-old Page, a member of the Vikings' Purple Gang-front-four for years, is carving out a new career as a Bear, and last year was in on 9½ sacks and 72 tackles while blocking four kicks. Tackle Jim Osborne (8 sacks) and end Mike Hartenstein (6 sacks) round out the solid front four-

some. Al Harris, also a second-year man, sees spot duty at end while Brad Shearer, hurt at the end of last season, and Ron Rydallch are the backups at tackle.

Linebackers—Last year's No. 1 draft pick was spent on Louisville linebacker Otis Wilson, who was supposed to be the next in a long line of outstanding Chicago linebackers. That still may be true someday, but as a rookie Wilson couldn't cope with the sophisticated Chicago defenses and played mostly in nickel situations. Meanwhile, Jerry Muckensturm, Tom Hicks, and Gary Campbell did the bulk of the linebacking with generally positive results. Muckensturm and Campbell tied for second on the team with 117 tackles, with 98 of Muckensturm's the solo variety. Hicks, the middle man, had 104 stops. In addition to Wilson, the reserves include Bruce Herron and Lee Kunz, who could push Hicks for the starting middle job.

Secondary—Doug Plank's Monday night TV hit on Tampa Bay's Jimmie Giles caused a mild furor last season. But it's no secret receivers are asking for trouble when they venture into the deep Bear zones where Plank and Gary Fencik roam. Both are extraordinary hitters, with Fencik leading the team in tackles with 125 on his way to the Pro Bowl. But alas, the two thumpers managed only one interception apiece in 1980. Top theft man on the team actually was backup safety Len Walterscheid, who also plays in nickel situations. Allan Ellis played his first full season after a knee operation cost him a year and a half, and had one interception, same as his fellow corner, Terry Schmidt. That adds up to four interceptions for the four starting defensive backs. Virgil Livers, a one-time starting corner, missed 1980 with a knee injury and may not be back in '81. That leaves Wentford Gaines, second-year man Jonathan Hoke, and Vaughn Lusby, another 1980 knee case, as the backups at the corners. Dave Becker, who played in 11 games last year, is a reserve safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Bob Thomas upped his Bears' career record field-goal percentage to 59.9 last year, although he certainly wasn't one of the busiest kickers around. He was good on 13 of just 18 tries. Bob Parsons averaged 40.6 for each of his punts, but was 0 for 1 on his specialty, the fake-punt pass. Dave Williams did the bulk of the kickoff returns in mediocre fashion, but had one electrifying 90-yard return with the opening kickoff of overtime in the Thanksgiving Day contest with the Lions. Walterscheid averaged 7.2 on his punt returns. Lusby, a return man with the Bengals as a rookie, could help out here if his knee is sound again.

THE DRAFT

The Bears couldn't pass up Southern Cal tackle Keith Van Horn with their first pick. Now Albrecht may be shifted from his tackle spot to his more natural position of guard since the 260-pound Trojan star will play tackle.

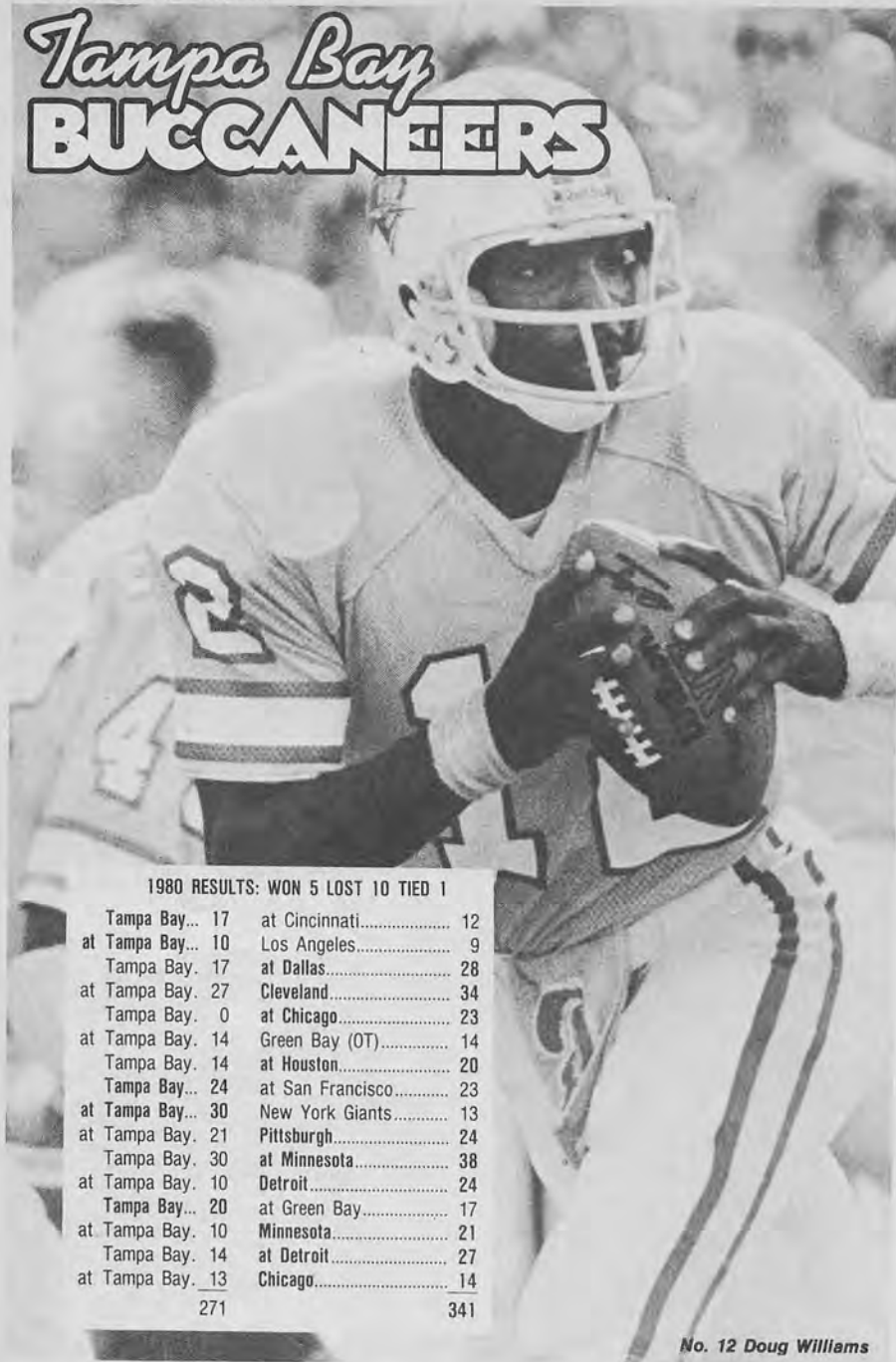
The undersized but talented Mike Singletary of Baylor was selected on the second round, and he'll give Hicks a run at middle linebacker. After Margerum, Chicago added depth in the secondary with three straight picks, including Ohio State star Todd Bell. Notre Dame defensive end Scott Zeigler could be a bonus as a No. 8 choice: if his troublesome knees improve.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Keith Van Horn	11	OT	Southern California
2	(From San Francisco)			
	Mike Singletary	38	LB	Baylor
3	(Choice to San Francisco)			
4	Ken Margerum	67	WR	Stanford
5	Todd Bell	95	DE	Ohio State
6	(Choice to San Francisco)			
7	Hauben Randerson	150	DE	San Diego State
8	Jeff Fisher	177	DE	Southern California
9	Scott Zeigler	205	DE	Notre Dame
10	Frank Otha	232	DE	Baylor
11	Tim Clifford	260	DE	Indiana
12	Loonie Johnson	287	RB	Indiana
	Bob Sheptry	316	LB	New Mexico



Tampa Bay BUCCANEERS



1980 RESULTS: WON 5 LOST 10 TIED 1

Tampa Bay...	17	at Cincinnati.....	12
at Tampa Bay...	10	Los Angeles.....	9
Tampa Bay...	17	at Dallas.....	28
at Tampa Bay...	27	Cleveland.....	34
Tampa Bay...	0	at Chicago.....	23
at Tampa Bay...	14	Green Bay (OT).....	14
Tampa Bay...	14	at Houston.....	20
Tampa Bay...	24	at San Francisco.....	23
at Tampa Bay...	30	New York Giants.....	13
at Tampa Bay...	21	Pittsburgh.....	24
Tampa Bay...	30	at Minnesota.....	38
at Tampa Bay...	10	Detroit.....	24
Tampa Bay...	20	at Green Bay.....	17
at Tampa Bay...	10	Minnesota.....	21
Tampa Bay...	14	at Detroit.....	27
at Tampa Bay...	13	Chicago.....	14
271			341

No. 12 Doug Williams

John McKay's sense of humor never has been questioned. It remains one of his pluses as a head coach. And the former Southern Cal coach never needed that plus more than he did last season.

Not even the 0-26 start of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers was more trying than the 5-10-1 record the Bucs compiled in 1980.

"What do you think about team execution?" McKay was asked following one of those 10 defeats.

"I'm in favor of it," he replied without batting an eyelash.

While McKay wasn't about to blindfold his Bucs and issue each one of them a final cigarette, there's no doubt the coaching king of the one-liners was disappointed in last year's results. Only a year ago McKay and his writers had come 10 points short of the Super Bowl, an incredible accomplishment for a club that had to play some 1620 minutes before just coming up with a victory.

"From Worst to First," was the Bucs' early battle cry. But last season it was, "From Best Back to the Rest."

"What happened?" McKay, said, repeating an oft-answered question late last season. "Well, we just have not been playing the aggressive defense we played a year ago. We're not getting after the other guy like we did. As far as I can see that is the biggest difference between this year and last."

Statistics may not always tell the truth, but they support McKay's theory on what happened to the Bucs in 1980.

In 1979 Tampa Bay had the best defense in the entire National Football League. The Bucs allowed only 247 yards per game in total offense, only 130 per contest via the pass. Tampa's 16 regular-season foes scored a total of 237 points.

In 1980 the Bucs ranked 19th among NFL defenses. Opponents rolled up 338 yards per game, 207 per outing through the air. And the 16 opponents combined for 341 points.

Unfortunately, there wasn't any great improvement in the Tampa Bay offense to pick up the slack from the slumping defense. The Bucs gained only 10 more yards and scored two less points than they did in 1979.

So the Bucs, the Cinderella story of 1979, became just another run-of-the-mill tale in 1980. About the only thing that saved the Bucs from total obscurity, in fact, was McKay's uncanny ability to laugh on the outside, while crying on the inside.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—"I'm his biggest fan," McKay says of his quarterback, Doug Williams. The former Grambling star did show

Coaches: John McKay, Tom Bass, George Chaump, Boyd Dowler, Wayne Fontes, Abe Giron, Bill Johnson, Phil Krueger, Bill Nelsen, Howard Tippet

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	NAME	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Birth-Exp.	data	College
69	Austin, Darrell	G-T	6-4	252	5	11/5/51	South Carolina
42	Bell, Ricky	RB	6-2	215	5	4/8/55	Southern California
36	Berns, Rick	RB	6-2	205	3	2/5/56	Nebraska
16	Blanchard, Tom	P	6-0	180	11	5/28/49	Oregon
53	Bonness, Rik	LB	6-3	220	5	3/20/54	Nebraska
52	Brantley, Scot	LB	6-1	230	2	2/24/58	Florida
55	Brown, Aaron	LB	6-2	235	4	1/13/56	Ohio State
34	Brown, Cedric	S	6-2	205	5	5/6/54	Kent State
87	Carter, Gerald	WR	6-1	185	2	6/19/57	Texas A&M
20	Colzie, Neal	S	6-2	195	7	2/28/53	Ohio State
33	Cotney, Mark	S	6-0	205	7	6/26/52	Cameron
71	Crowder, Randy	DT	6-3	250	6	7/30/52	Penn State
28	Davis, Gary	RB	5-10	210	6	9/7/54	Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo
38	Davis, Johnny	RB	6-1	235	4	7/17/53	Alabama
27	Davis, Tony	RB	5-11	210	6	1/21/53	Nebraska
43	Eckwood, Jerry	RB	6-0	200	3	12/26/54	Arkansas
14	Fosina, Chuck	QB	6-1	195	3	5/31/57	Penn State
88	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	225	5	11/8/54	Alcorn State
81	Hagins, Isaac	WR	5-9	180	5	3/2/54	Southern University
73	Hannah, Charley	T	6-6	260	5	7/28/55	Alabama
59	Hawkins, Andy	LB	6-2	220	2	3/31/58	Texas A&M
80	House, Kevin	WR	6-1	175	2	12/20/57	Southern Illinois

56	Johnson, Cecil	LB	6-2	230	5	8/19/55	Pittsburgh
84	Jones, Gordon	WR	6-0	190	3	7/25/57	Pittsburgh
25	Jordan, Curtis	CB-S	6-2	205	6	1/25/54	Texas Tech
77	Kollar, Bill	DE-DT	6-4	250	8	11/12/52	Montana State
62	Leonard, Jim	C	6-3	250	2	10/19/57	Santa Clara
57	Lewis, David	LB	6-4	245	5	10/15/54	Southern California
79	Lewis, Reggie	DE	6-3	255	3	5/6/56	North Texas State
76	Logan, Dave	DT	6-2	250	3	10/25/56	Pittsburgh
51	Nafziger, Dana	LB	6-1	220	4	10/26/53	Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo
86	Obradovich, Jim	TE	6-2	230	7	4/2/53	Southern California
78	Radford, Bruce	DE	6-5	260	3	9/5/55	Grambling
15	Rae, Mike	QB	6-2	200	6	7/26/51	Southern California
75	Reavis, Dave	T	6-5	260	7	6/19/50	Arkansas
46	Reece, Danny	CB-S	5-11	195	6	1/28/55	Southern California
61	Roberts, Greg	G	6-3	260	3	11/19/56	Oklahoma
80	Samuels, Tony	TE	6-4	235	5	12/30/54	Bethune-Cookman
74	Sanders, Gene	G	6-3	260	3	11/10/56	Texas A&M
58	Selmon, Dewey	LB	6-1	240	6	11/19/53	Oklahoma
63	Selmon, Lee Roy	DE	6-3	250	6	10/20/54	Oklahoma
82	Shumann, Mike	WR	6-0	175	4	10/13/55	Florida State
72	Snell, Ray	G	6-3	255	2	2/24/58	Wisconsin
65	Stalls, Dave	DE	6-4	250	5	9/19/55	Northern Colorado
85	Stewart, Joe	WR	5-11	180	3	11/18/55	Missouri
41	Thomas, Norris	CB	5-11	185	3	5/3/54	Southern Mississippi
40	Washington, Mike	CB	6-2	200	4	7/1/53	Alabama
12	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	215	4	8/9/55	Grambling
50	Wilson, Steve	C	6-3	265	6	5/19/54	Georgia
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2	230	7	5/31/53	Southern California
68	Yarno, George	G-C	6-2	255	3	8/12/57	Washington State
1	Yepremian, Gary	K	5-8	175	14	8/2/44	No college

some improvement in his third year. He upped his completion percentage seven points from 1979 to 48.8, a result of throwing more dump-off passes than in the past. He had a 20-16 TD-to-interception ratio compared to 18-24 the previous year. "If everyone had played as well as Doug did, we wouldn't have had the year we had," McKay said of his strong-armed quarterback. Chuck Fusina, the backup, threw only four passes after replacing Mike Rae as the No. 2 man. Rae suffered a shoulder injury early in the year.

Running backs—Remember, Tony Dorsett wasn't the first player picked in the 1977 draft. Ricky Bell had that honor, and after his 1263-yard season in '79, Bell looked like he was ready to grab a spot among the league's top runners. But last season, hobbled at times by a bad knee, he dropped off to 599 yards, one reason the Bucs' offense didn't reflect the improvement in the quarterback. "We had about three good games all year," said McKay. "Otherwise we stood around killing grass at midfield." Jerry Eckwood averaged only 3.4 per carry (same as Bell) in gaining 504 yards. The backup duo, fullback Johnny Davis and halfback Richard Berns, couldn't better the 3.5-mark per carry, either. Two more Davises, Tony and Gary, did most of their playing on special teams.

Receivers—Jimmie Giles made it to the Pro Bowl last year, but the tight end really didn't have that kind of season. He had shown so much promise in '79 (beginning to sound familiar, isn't it?) but didn't continue that upward climb last season. Nevertheless he remains a reason for Buccaneer optimism. Another receiver, however, began fulfilling his promise last fall. Gordon Jones, injured most of his rookie year of '79, came on to catch 48 passes, five of them for scores, and lead the team in receptions. Isaac Hagins, who dates back to the 0-26 days, and Kevin House split the duties on the other flank and caught 47 between them. House finished with a 138-yard effort against the Bears on just three receptions. Former 49er Mike Shumann and second-year man Gerald Carter are the reserves, although free agents Jackie Flowers and Joe Stewart have been brought in as competition. Jim Obradovich and one-time Chief starter Tony Samuels, who finished the season on the injured reserve list, are Giles' backups.

Offensive line—Part of the Bucs' offensive woes were a result of injuries to the starting guards. Both Gene Sanders, a converted defensive lineman, and Greg Roberts, a rookie star in 1979, spent time on the injured reserve list a year ago. That forced No. 1 draft pick Ray Snell to get some force-feeding at guard,



No. 54 Richard Wood

and force-feeding isn't always the best way for a young offensive lineman to get his nourishment. David Reavis and Charley Hannah remained healthy at the tackles but center Steve Wilson had to give way to backup Jim Leonard at times because of injuries. The injuries gave reserve George Yarno and versatile Darrell Austin, who started the year on injured reserve, a chance to play, but that prevented the unit from acquiring any continuity.

DEFENSE

Line—The key to the swarming Buc defense in '79 was the pressure the front three were able to apply on most opposing quarterbacks. Last year the pressure was off, even from superstar end Lee Roy Selmon, who finished with just eight sacks. Wally Chambers was let go, and noseguard Randy Crowder went out in the third game with a broken leg. That meant Bill Kollar, who excelled as the top

replacement all along the line the year before, had to play regularly in 1980. He and second-year man David Logan, who took over at noseguard, were Selmon's mates most of last year. Logan, despite little previous experience, got in on 90 tackles and had four sacks. Former Cowboy David Stalls and second-year man Reggie Lewis supported the ends while Bruce Radford spent some time spelling Logan—when he was healthy. Undersized Wayne Hamilton will be brought in this year for a trial at end.

Linebackers—David Lewis joined Giles at the Pro Bowl, but again the election may have been based on '79 instead of '80. Lewis had a good year, 100 tackles, but wasn't the fiery leader he had been the year before. Richard Wood led the club in tackles again while his inside mate, Dewey Selmon, got off to a slow start because of injuries. Cecil Johnson gave way at times to Andy Hawkins, who was a rookie out of Texas A&I, on the right side. A bright note was the play in spots of Scot Brantley, a rookie who had suffered a serious head injury during his senior year at Florida. There was a question whether Brantley would be able to play at all, but he played and played well. He, Aaron Brown, and Rik Bonness, another who was hurt, are the ready reserves.

Secondary—A pulled hamstring cost free safety Cedric Brown the early part of the season and the Bucs' secondary, like the offensive line, never was able to put it together. There was one change, with Curtis Jordan moving in at left cornerback for the departed Jeris White. Jordan figures to battle ex-Dolphin Norris Thomas for the spot this year, with Mike Washington remaining steady on the right side. Brown, who is a good one when healthy, and Mark Cotney are the incumbent safeties but another ex-Dolphin, Neal Colzie, could be a factor this year after performing mostly on nickel situations last season. Danny Reece, the seventh defensive back, is used basically as a punt returner.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Reece had only one fair catch last year, matching the total he had in 1979. But his 5.4 return average didn't rate him even close to the leaders. Gary Davis did most of the kickoff returning and had a mediocre 21.6 norm. While the return game was spotty, the kicking game was solid. Tom Blanchard finished second in the conference with his 42.3 average, although his returnable line-drive kicks brought his net down to 33.2. And the unforgettable Garo Yepremian hooked up with the Bucs after being cast adrift by the Saints. He was good on 16 of 23 field goal tries and tallied 79 points for Tampa Bay.

THE DRAFT

McKay's hopes for a more aggressive defense were buoyed draft day when he was able to add Pitt's Hugh Green to the Bucs' cast with his first pick. Green's initiation rite was the destruction of Notre Dame, and he's become even better since. He should provide the linebacking with a boost, and could become a savage blitzing man from his outside spot.

Missouri's James Wilder, the second-round choice, could be a major addition to the running back corps if he remains healthy. SMI's Mike Ford, once a highly touted college passer, was added on Round 9.

More defensive aid could be forthcoming from cornerback John Holt of West Texas (No. 4), who also returns kicks, defensive end Ken McCune of Texas (No. 10), and defensive tackle Brad White of Tennessee (No. 12).

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Hugh Green	7	LB	Pittsburgh
2	James Wilder	34	RB	Missouri
3	(Choice to Los Angeles)			
4	John Holt	69	DB	W. Texas State
5	(Choice to Oakland)			
6	(Choice to New Orleans)			
7	(Choice to Dallas)			
8	Dewey Johnson	199	OT	Tulsa
9	Mike Ford	228	QB	Southern Methodist
10	Ken McCune	254	DE	Texas
11	John Ray Smith	283	DB	Lamar
12	Brad White	310	DT	Tennessee



Green Bay PACKERS



No. 31 Gerry Ellis

1980 RESULTS: WON 5 LOST 10 TIED 1

at Green Bay...	12	Chicago (OT).....	6
at Green Bay...	7	Detroit.....	29
Green Bay...	21	at Los Angeles.....	51
at Green Bay...	7	Dallas.....	28
at Green Bay...	14	Cincinnati.....	9
Green Bay...	14	at Tampa Bay (OT).....	14
Green Bay...	21	at Cleveland.....	26
at Green Bay...	16	Minnesota.....	3
Green Bay...	20	at Pittsburgh.....	22
at Green Bay...	23	San Francisco.....	16
Green Bay...	21	at New York Giants.....	27
Green Bay...	25	at Minnesota.....	13
at Green Bay...	17	Tampa Bay.....	20
Green Bay...	7	at Chicago.....	61
at Green Bay...	3	Houston.....	22
Green Bay...	3	at Detroit.....	24
	231		371

As a player Bart Starr had the remarkable ability to land on his feet. As quarterback of those unforgettable Packer teams, he never displayed the strongest arm or the quickest feet. But he nearly always wound up a winner.

Starr never did a better job of landing on his feet, however, than he did this past winter after his sixth year as Green Bay coach. His career mark stood at 31-57-2 after a 5-10-1 season that included embarrassing losses of 51-21 and 61-7, countless player fights and disagreements on the practice field and in the locker room, Starr's running feud with a Milwaukee sportswriter, and the resignation of an assistant coach after a hot-dog-eating incident on the bench.

It was almost certain the one-time playing hero would be banished. The club's 45-man board of directors appeared to be greasing the slide for Starr's departure in late December when they stripped him of his title as general manager and offered him a one-year contract as coach.

Starr was miffed at the loss of power and knew that any man hired over him as GM might turn around and fire the head coach. But perhaps the patience he showed in directing Vince Lombardi's offense years ago helped him sit tight.

And a few weeks later the board of directors decided not to hire a new general manager, but instead divide the duties between two present members of the organization.

How long will Starr's luck hold out? A cat has nine lives; a coach far fewer than that. Starr has outlived many feline creatures during his stay as Packers head coach, but he cannot afford still another disastrous season.

Actually, there were some positive moments for "The Pack" in 1980. They had a stretch of 4-3-1 that could have been 7-1. They played well at times despite a large number of injuries to players like Rich Wingo, Mark Koncar, Mike Hunt, John Anderson, George Cumby, and David Whitehurst.

But the bottom line was 5-10-1, and last place in the NFC Central. Even Starr's feet can't stand too much more of that.

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—With injuries striking all around him—Whitehurst (knee), Mark Miller (shoulder), Bill Troup (concussion)—one of the league's more brittle performers managed to stay healthy and put together a decent season. Lynn Dickey, whose fractured hip and broken leg cost him two full seasons and parts of three others, stayed together for the entire year and wound up with 3529 yards, a 58.2 completion percentage, and 15 TDs, but 25 interceptions. Starr would like better perfor-

Coaches: Bart Starr, Zeke Bratkowski, Lew Carpenter, Ross Fichtner, John Marshall, John Meyer, Dick Rehbein, Doc Urich

GREEN BAY PACKERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
60	Allerman, Kurt	LB	6-2	222	5	8/30/55	Penn State
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	221	4	2/14/56	Michigan
44	Anderson, Vickey Ray	RB	6-0	205	2	5/3/56	Oklahoma
42	Atkins, Steve	RB	6-0	218	3	6/22/56	Maryland
62	Aydelette, Buddy	T	6-4	258	2	8/19/56	Alabama
58	Beekley, Bruce	LB	6-2	225	2	12/15/56	Oregon
11	Beverly, David	P	6-2	180	8	8/18/50	Auburn
74	Brown, Ken	DE	6-1	245	3	4/19/54	New Mexico
77	Butler, Mike	DE	6-5	265	5	4/4/54	Kansas
65	Cabral, Brian	LB	6-1	224	3	6/23/58	Colorado
88	Cassidy, Ron	WR	6-0	185	3	7/23/57	Utah State
82	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	218	4	3/29/56	Kansas State
52	Cumby, George	LB	6-1	215	2	7/5/56	Oklahoma
12	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	220	11	10/19/49	Kansas State
53	Douglass, Mike	LB	6-0	224	4	3/15/55	San Diego State
31	Ellis, Gerry	FB	5-11	215	2	11/12/57	Missouri
57	Goforth, Derrell	S	6-3	260	5	3/20/55	Oklahoma State
24	Gray, Johnnie	S	5-11	185	7	12/18/53	California State-Fullerton
61	Gueno, Jim	LB	6-2	220	6	1/15/54	Tulane
69	Harris, Leotis	G	6-1	267	4	6/28/55	Arkansas
38	Hood, Estus	CB	5-11	180	3	11/14/55	Illinois State
25	Huckleby, Harlan	RB	6-1	200	2	12/30/57	Michigan

55	Hunt, Mike	LB	6-2	240	4	10/6/56	Minnesota
40	Ivery, Eddie Lee	RB	6-1	210	3	7/30/57	Georgia Tech
71	Jackson, Mel	G	6-1	267	7	5/5/54	Southern California
99	Jehonson, Charles	DT	6-1	262	3	6/29/57	Maryland
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	240	5	10/5/55	Morris Brown
21	Jolly, Mike	S	6-3	187	2	3/19/58	Michigan
63	Jones, Terry	DT	6-2	259	4	11/8/56	Alabama
85	Kimball, Bobbiv	WR	6-1	190	2	3/12/57	Oklahoma
64	Kitson, Syd	G	6-4	252	2	9/27/58	Wake Forest
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	265	5	6/14/55	Arkansas
79	Koncar, Mark	T	6-5	268	5	5/5/53	Colorado
87	Larson, Bill	TE	6-4	225	5	10/7/53	Colorado State
72	Lathrop, Kit	DT	6-5	253	3	8/10/56	Arizona State
22	Lee, Mark	CB	5-11	186	2	3/20/58	Washington
80	Lifton, James	WR	6-3	187	4	7/5/56	Stanford
46	Luke, Steve	S	6-2	205	7	9/4/53	Ohio State
54	Mc Carren, Larry	C	6-3	238	9	11/8/51	Illinois
29	Mc Coy, Mike	CB	5-11	183	6	8/16/53	Colorado
78	Merrill, Casey	DE	6-4	255	3	7/18/57	California-Davis
34	Middleton, Tordell	RB	6-0	195	5	4/8/55	Memphis State
18	Miller, Mark	QB	6-2	175	3	8/13/56	Bowling Green
84	Nixon, Fred	WR	5-11	190	2	9/22/58	Oklahoma
56	O'Neil, Ed	LB	6-3	235	8	9/8/52	Penn State
70	Rudzinski, Paul	LB	6-1	220	4	7/28/56	Michigan State
10	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	190	15	11/26/43	Montana State
76	Stokes, Tim	T	6-5	252	8	3/16/50	Oregon
67	Swanke, Karl	T-C	6-5	250	2	12/29/57	Boston College
89	Thompson, Aulidra	WR	6-0	186	5	1/2/53	East Texas State
83	Thompson, John	TE	6-3	228	3	1/18/57	Utah State
26	Torkelson, Eric	RB	6-2	210	7	3/3/52	Connecticut



No. 82 Paul Coffman

mance, and one-time starter Whitehurst, former Brown Miller (on the injured reserve list all last season), and Mike Mancuso, who had a training camp trial with Dallas in 1980, will be aiming to provide just that.

Running backs—Green Bay is well stocked here, with Eddie Lee Ivey (831 yards) and Rams reject Gerry Ellis (545) doing the bulk of the work last season. Both topped the 100-yard mark in a win over Minnesota in November. And they combined for 98 catches out of the backfield plus 12 TDs rushing and receiving. Behind the starting pair are the brittle but talented Steve Atkins (206 yards), one-time Pro Bowler Terrell Middleton (155), youngsters Harlan Huckleby and Vickey Ray Anderson, plus vet Eric Torkelson, who was out all season with injuries in 1980. The Packers do not possess that breakaway outside threat among the eight veterans, however. And Barty Smith says he'll retire because of a recurring knee problem.

Receiving—Undoubtedly "The Pack's" best is James Lofton, the former Stanford trackman who really came into his own as a topflight receiver last year. Lofton led the conference in receiving yardage with 1226 (best total in the league for a non-Charger) on 71 catches, four for TDs. He even filled in as a nickel defensive back in one game when injuries depleted the secondary corps. Aundra Thompson added 40 catches for 609 yards from the other flank while Paul Coffman continued to establish himself as the king of the

underrated tight ends in the league with 42 catches and strong blocking. Kick returners Freddie Nixon and Ron Cassidy, plus Bobby Kimball, hurt much of '80, are the outside backups while journeyman Bill Larson was added late in the year to replace the injured John Thompson as Coffman's backup.

Offensive line—Koncar recovered from a preseason knee injury long enough to play one game, during which he injured an Achilles tendon that cost him the rest of the season. With the massive tackle out most of the year and Larry McCarren, although hurt, playing center, the Green Bay offensive line never really got its act together. Guards Derrel Goforth and Leotis Harris played efficiently while Greg Koch and journeyman Tim Stokes finished the season as the tackles. With Koncar a physical risk, either Karl Swanke or Buddy Aydelette, a pair of last year's draft picks, might be necessary at tackle. Syd Kitson, another of last year's draftees, is the backup guard while Ken Brown, added late in the year, is behind the very efficient McCarren.

DEFENSE

Line—Starr drafted Penn State's Bruce Clark as first choice last year with the intention of making Clark the noseguard in his new 3-4 alignment. But Clark started the Packer season on a fitting note by signing in Canada. So the Green Bay defense finished 11th in the conference and yielded 371 points. The two

ends, Mike Butler and Ezra Johnson, led the team in sacks with 10 and 9, respectively, and gave Starr few problems, save a hot dog now and then. Behind the two were Kit Lathrop and Casey Merrill, while between them were either Charles Johnson or Terry Jones. Ex-49er Reuben Vaughan will get a shot at the nose job in 1981.

Linebacker—Wingo was the surprise star as middle linebacker in 1979, and his loss for the season to a training camp knee injury severely damaged Starr's defensive plans. Then Mike Hunt, scheduled to play beside Wingo in the 3-4, was lost early in the year because of headache problems. So "The Pack" went through the year with ex-Lion Ed O'Neill, ex-Cardinal Kurt Allerman, Bruce Beekley, Paul Rudzinski, and Brian Cabral handling the important inside spots. As if that weren't enough, solid outside linebacker John Anderson broke his left arm, for the third time in three years, and missed the last seven games. Mike Douglass remained healthy and had a good season at the right outside backer spot while Jim Gueno, a special teams star, replaced Anderson. George Cumby, the other No. 1 draft pick, also bowed out after nine games with a knee injury, but he is expected to make a strong run at a starting spot in the 1981 season.

Secondary—The defensive backs made it through the year in relatively good shape, save a last-week injury to cornerback Estus Hood. Johnnie Gray led the team with five interceptions from his free safety spot. Hard-hitting Steve Luke is the strong safety, with Mike Jolly, a New Orleans draftee in 1980, as the reserve. Hood and Mike McCoy are adequate as the cornerbacks, although Mark Lee, a rookie last year, and Wylie Turner, a third year corner man will push for starting jobs this time around.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Chester Marcol won the overtime opener with that classic TD run with a blocked field goal in a manner that made some of the losing Bears compare him to "the guy from the New York Life commercials." But problems both off and on the field sentenced Marcol to the waiver wire. First, Tom Birney was given the job, but when he showed a tendency to miss short field goals, former Chiefs star Jan Stenerud was brought in and finished with three field goals in five tries. Free agent Skip Vernon will compete for the job in training camp. David Beverly averaged 38.2 per punt but had only six touchbacks in 86 punts. Lee, Cassidy, Nixon, and Aundra Thompson did the bulk of the returning, although none of the four was particularly effective at it.

20. Turner, Wylie	QB	5-10	182	3	4/19/57	Angelo State
Vaughan, Ruben	DT	6-2	263	2	8/5/56	Colorado
17. Whitehurst, David	QB	6-2	204	5	4/27/55	Furman
50. Wingo, Rich	LB	5-11	230	2	7/16/56	Alabama

THE DRAFT

Starr passed up more pressing needs to take California quarterback Rich Campbell with his first choice. Campbell, a soft-touch passer, is coming off knee surgery following an injury suffered last November 1, but is recovering well.

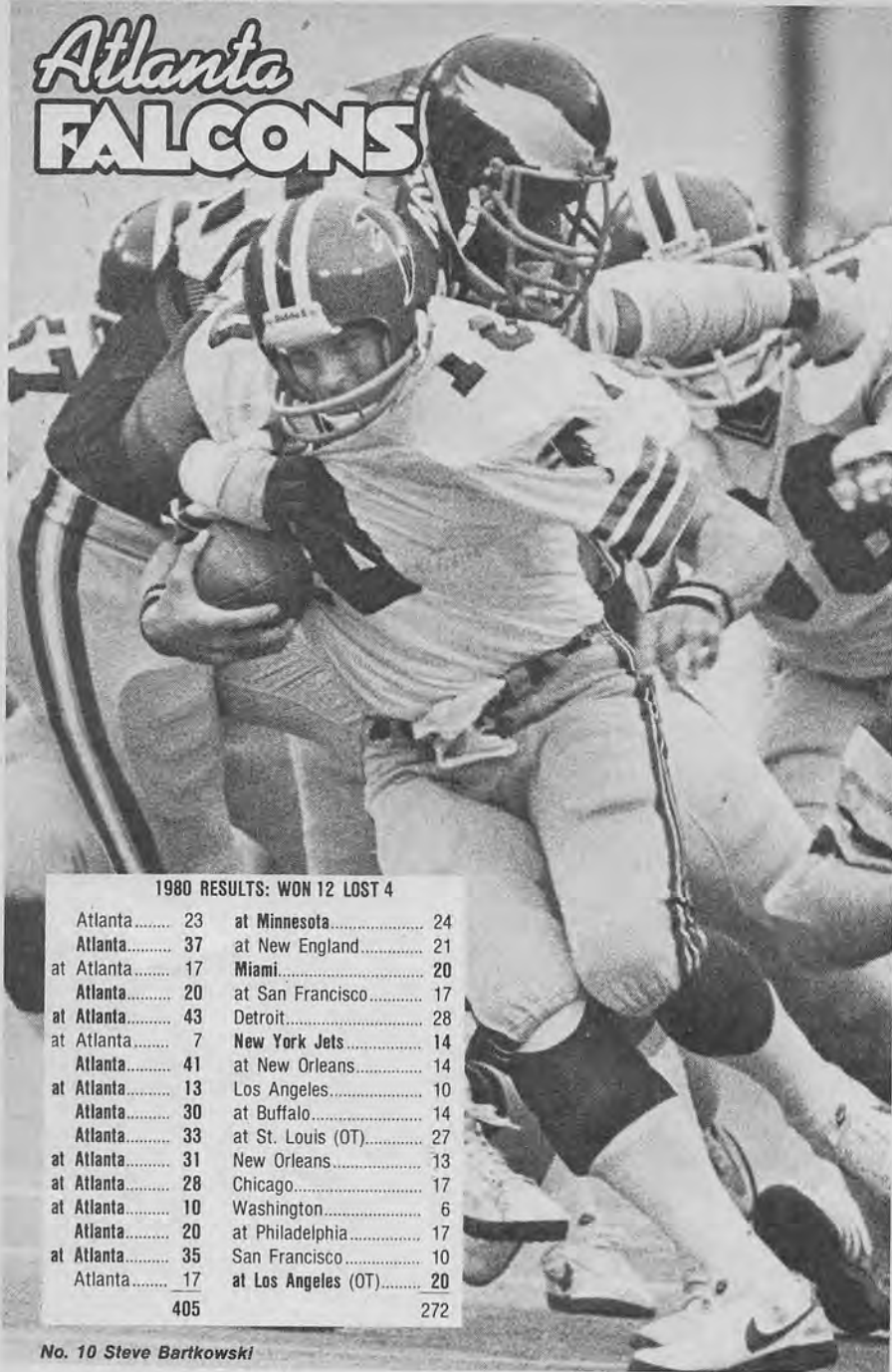
The Pack continued to pass up needs in the second round, taking Texas-Arlington tight end Gary Lewis, and in the third, selecting punter Ray Stachowicz of Michigan State. Starr finally addressed himself to the immediate problems later in the draft adding such players as Oklahoma noseguard Richard Turner (No. 4), Alabama defensive lineman Byron Braggs (No. 5), Missouri corner Bill Whitaker (No. 7), Jackson State linebacker Larry Wurts (No. 8), and Notre Dame tackle Tim Huffman (No. 9).

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	Rich Campbell	6	QB	California
2	Gary Lewis	35	TE	Texas-Arlington
3	Ray Stachowicz	62	P	Michigan State
4	(Choice to Washington)			
4	(From Los Angeles)			
5	Richard Turner	105	DT	Oklahoma
5	Byron Braggs	117	DT	Alabama
6	(Choice to New York Giants)			
7	Bill Whitaker	172	CB	Missouri
8	Larry Wurts	200	LB	Jackson State
9	Tim Huffman	227	OT	Notre Dame
10	Nicky Hall	255	QB	Tulane
11	Forest Valora	262	TE	Oklahoma
12	Cliff Lewis	311	LB	Southern Mississippi



Atlanta FALCONS



1980 RESULTS: WON 12 LOST 4

Atlanta.....	23	at Minnesota.....	24
Atlanta.....	37	at New England.....	21
at Atlanta.....	17	Miami.....	20
Atlanta.....	20	at San Francisco.....	17
at Atlanta.....	43	Detroit.....	28
at Atlanta.....	7	New York Jets.....	14
Atlanta.....	41	at New Orleans.....	14
at Atlanta.....	13	Los Angeles.....	10
Atlanta.....	30	at Buffalo.....	14
Atlanta.....	33	at St. Louis (OT).....	27
at Atlanta.....	31	New Orleans.....	13
at Atlanta.....	28	Chicago.....	17
at Atlanta.....	10	Washington.....	6
Atlanta.....	20	at Philadelphia.....	17
at Atlanta.....	35	San Francisco.....	10
Atlanta.....	17	at Los Angeles (OT).....	20
405		272	

No. 10 Steve Bartkowski

Just a year ago many people were wondering, "What happened to the Atlanta Falcons last season?"

The Falcons, a promising playoff team in 1978, had fallen apart the following fall and wound up far out of contention. Well, it's a year later, and many are still asking the same question. But this time it's a happy one.

An excellent draft, aided by the prime selecting position due to the 6-10 disappointment of 1978, and a relatively injury-free season both contributed to the most amazing NFL story east of Oakland. The Falcons won the NFC West with a team-record 12 victories, and took the Cowboys to the final seconds before bowing, 30-27, in the playoff semifinal.

"The loss to Dallas was a great disappointment," said Atlanta coach Leeman Bennett. "However, we cannot let that game make us lose sight of the progress made in 1980. The foundation is solid for a good football team to last for many years, and we must grow from our experience this season."

Bennett was able to start the same offensive unit for the final 15 games last year and did not lose a defensive player for the season. That's a testimony to the good health enjoyed by the surprising Falcons.

The coach also injected some talented youth into the program, starting four, sometimes five, rookies at a time. One observer noted the Falcons were so young they made road trips in a yellow school bus. But while Junior Miller, Buddy Curry, Al Richardson, Ken Johnson, and Jim Laughlin were rookies, they showed surprising poise along with the expected enthusiasm and vigor of youth.

Curry, Richardson, second-year man Joel Williams, and sometimes Laughlin helped make the Atlanta defense, suspect after a 388-point yield in 1979, respectable once again. Williams, a Miami castoff, had an incredible 16 sacks. Richardson had seven interceptions while sharing rookie defensive player of the year honors with teammate Buddy Curry.

The linebackers made Bennett's switch to the 3-4 defense a stroke of genius. The team sacks rose from 29 to 46; the interceptions climbed from 14 to 26; and the point-yield diminished to 272, a reduction of about one TD per game.

Meanwhile, Steve Bartkowski directed a well-balanced offense that featured two backs with more than 900 yards rushing and four receivers with 46 or more receptions. The line cut down on the sack total from 54 to 35.

The numbers give the answer as to what happened to Atlanta in 1980. The only question left is what will people be wondering about the Falcons a year from now.

Coaches: Leeman Bennett, Jerry Glanville, Mike McDonnell, John North, Jimmy Raye, Doug Shively, Jim Stanley, Bill Walsh, Dick Wood.

ATLANTA FALCONS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
33	Anderson, Anthony	RB	6-0	197	3	9/27/56	Temple
31	Andrews, William	RB	6-0	200	3	12/25/55	Auburn
10	Bartkowski, Steve	QB	6-4	213	7	11/12/52	California
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11	195	4	1/26/54	Texas A&M
66	Bryant, Warren	T	6-6	270	5	11/11/55	Kentucky
38	Byas, Rick	CB	5-9	180	8	10/19/50	Wayne State, Michigan
21	Cain, Lynn	RB	6-1	205	3	10/16/55	Southern California
53	Correal, Chuck	C	6-3	247	3	5/17/58	Penn State
50	Curry, Buddy	LB	6-3	220	2	6/4/58	North Carolina
55	Daykin, Tony	LB	6-1	215	5	5/13/55	Georgia Tech
32	Easterling, Ray	S	6-0	192	8	9/3/49	Richmond
74	Fauminia, Wilson	DT	6-5	275	5	8/11/54	San Jose State
77	Fields, Edgar	DT	6-2	255	5	3/10/54	Texas A&M
9	Fortner, Larry	QB	6-4	212	2	12/24/55	Miami, Ohio
89	Francis, Wallace	WR	5-11	190	9	11/7/51	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
36	Glazebrook, Bob	S	6-1	200	4	3/7/56	Fresno State
63	Herman, Chuck	G	6-3	250	2	10/7/58	Arkansas
64	Howell, Pat	G	6-5	253	3	3/12/57	Southern California
85	Jackson, Alfred	WR	5-11	176	4	8/3/55	Texas
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	10	1/21/49	Florida
84	Jenkins, Al	WR	5-10	172	7	1/25/52	Morris Brown
37	Johnson, Kenny	S	5-10	176	2	1/7/58	Mississippi State

20	Jones, Earl	CB	6-0	178	2	7/19/57	Norfolk State
14	Jones, June	QB	6-4	200	4	2/19/53	Portland State
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-6	257	4	2/9/56	Michigan
54	Kuykendall, Fulton	LB	6-5	225	7	6/10/53	UCLA
51	Laughlin, Jim	LB	6-0	212	2	7/5/58	Ohio State
22	Lawrence, Roland	CB	5-10	179	9	3/24/51	Tabor
39	Mayberry, James	RB	5-11	210	3	11/5/57	Colorado
4	Mazzetti, Tim	K	6-1	175	4	2/1/56	Pennsylvania
52	McClain, Dewey	LB	6-3	236	6	4/26/54	East Central Oklahoma
73	McKinney, Phil	T	6-4	248	6	7/8/54	UCLA
75	Morrow, Jeff	DE	6-4	230	7	7/11/53	West Virginia
87	Mikeska, Russ	TE	6-3	225	3	9/10/55	Texas A&M
80	Miller, Junior	TE	6-4	243	2	11/26/57	Nebraska
15	Morocki, Mike	QB	6-4	200	3	9/4/57	California-Davis
81	Pearson, Dennis	WR	5-11	177	3	2/9/55	San Diego State
59	Pennywell, Robert	LB	6-1	222	6	11/6/51	Grambling
27	Pridemore, Tom	S	5-11	186	4	4/29/56	West Virginia
28	Reed, Frank	S	5-11	193	6	5/13/54	Washington
56	Richardson, Al	LB	6-2	206	2	9/23/57	Georgia Tech
82	Ryckman, Billy	WR	5-11	172	4	2/28/55	Louisiana Tech
70	Scott, Dave	G	6-4	265	6	12/28/53	Kansas
65	Smith, Don	DE	6-5	248	3	5/9/57	Miami
66	Smith, Mike	WR	5-10	194	2	4/28/58	Grambling
16	Smith, Reggie	WR	5-4	168	2	7/15/56	North Carolina Central
25	Strong, Ray	RB	5-9	184	4	5/7/56	Nevada Las Vegas
68	Thieleman, R. C.	G	6-4	247	5	8/12/55	Arkansas
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	247	13	2/7/46	Kentucky
58	Williams, Joel	LB	6-0	215	3	12/13/56	La Crosse, Wisconsin
79	Yeates, Jeff	DE	6-3	248	10	6/3/51	Boston College
63	Zele, Mike	DT	6-3	236	3	7/3/56	Kent State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Bartkowski struck it big in his sixth season out of California, finishing third in the NFC with 257 completions, 3544 yards and an excellent 31-16 TD-to-interception ratio (from a disastrous 17-20 in 1979). "Steve did not play a bad game during the entire year," lauds Bennett of the man who set nine team passing marks and tied a 10th in 1980. "He had a lot of tools to work with, and to his credit he utilized them all." With Bartkowski doing almost all the playing, backup Mike Moroski got to throw only three passes and No. 3 Larry Fortner didn't throw any. Vet June Jones III was hurt in the preseason.

Running backs—While a modest 37-yard gain was the longest run between them, Williams Andrews and Lynn Cain nevertheless provided the Falcons with a great one-two running punch. Andrews roared to 1308 yards and a 4.9 average while adding 51 catches out of the backfield to show his rookie year (1023 yards, 39 receptions) was no fluke. Cain, like Andrews a second-year man, added 914 yards, caught 24 balls, and scored nine times. Neither was a dynamic runner in college, Andrews at Auburn nor Cain at USC. Again the backup appearances were limited, with James Mayberry, Ray Strong, and Anthony Anderson combining for just 30 carries and 135 yards. One of Strong's runs, however, was a 21-yard scoring burst that beat the Cards in overtime. One-time starter Bubba Bean missed the entire season with a knee injury.

Receivers—Miller was highly regarded out of Nebraska, and the tight end certainly was not disappointing during his rookie season. He caught 46 passes, nine for touchdowns, and blocked well enough to earn Pro Bowl honors (with Bartkowski, Andrews, tackle Mike Kenn, center Jeff Van Note, and wide receiver Alfred Jenkins). Jenkins was the top receiver with 57 catches and 1026 yards, including the miracle fourth-down 54-yarder from Bartkowski that sunk the Rams. Wallace Francis kept people from ganging up on Jenkins with 54 catches, seven for TDs. And off the bench came Alfred Jackson to grab 23, seven for scores. That's a yield of 134 catches and 20 TDs from three wide receivers. Billy Ryckman and Mike Smith added experience depth at the outside spots, while Russ Mikeska was a power-blocking horse as the backup to Miller.

Offensive line—"Nothing is possible on offense if the line does not play well," says Bennett. "With only a couple of exceptions, our line played super throughout the season." Kenn, who went through the regular season without a penalty called against him, and his



running mate, Warren Bryant, teamed with guards R. C. Thielemann and Dave Scott and center Van Note, to yield only 35 sacks in more than 500 passing plays. Atlanta's 2406 rushing yards, added to the passing totals, gave the Falcons the second-best total yardage figure in the NFC (behind Los Angeles). In support of the starters are guard Pat Howell, tackles Chuck Herman and Phil McKinnely, and long-snap center Chuck Correal.

DEFENSE

Line—Key to any 3-4 line is the noseguard spot, and Bennett filled it more than adequately with second-year man Don Smith. An end as a rookie, Smith moved into the middle and totalled 5½ sacks while helping to clog up 32 running plays. End Jeff Yeates played 14 of the 16 games, and during that time the Falcons yielded an average of 84.2 yards rushing per outing. In the two games Yeates missed with shoulder miseries, Atlanta allowed an av-

erage of 225 yards per game. Jeff Merrow was steady on the other end and had eight sacks. There is veteran depth in Wilson Fautuina, Mike Zele, and Edgar Fields, plus a young hopeful in end Matthew Teague, injured last season after having been selected in the summer supplementary draft.

Linebackers—"Overall, the talent was better than in the past, but the desire and willingness to swarm the ball were the keys to our success," said Bennett of the defensive turnaround. Certainly the trio of Curry, Richardson, and Williams had a lot to do with that swarming. Richardson had a streak of eight games where he had a turnover (five interceptions, three fumble recoveries). Curry led the team in tackles with 145, while Williams was second with 93 in addition to his 16 sacks. Vet Fulton Kuykendall added a touch of experience, but when he was hurt Laughlin stepped in admirably. Vets Robert Pennywell, Dewey McClain and Tony Daykin, no slouches themselves, had to make way for the youngsters. "By midseason most of the rookies had played every down and were rookies in name only," said Bennett of the precocious group.

Secondary—Danny White and the Cowboys found this was the Falcons' weakest area in the final period of that playoff game. So Atlanta did not get to host the NFC title game the next week. Ken Johnson, a natural free safety, did a good job as a rookie corner after replacing Rick Byas (wrist). And Bob Glazebrook, who was released and then resigned last summer, finished the year at strong safety. Improvement must be made at those spots as well as the other corner where Rolland Lawrence was under par. Tom Pride-more, youngest member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, had a good year at free safety. Veteran safety and team spiritual leader, Ray Easterling, injured in the preseason, and Frank Reed should challenge Glazebrook while Byas and second-year man Earl Jones should push the corners.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Tim Mazzetti bounced back from an off-year and tallied 103 points, second-best total in the conference, with 19 of 27 field goals and 46 of 49 extra points. John James had a typical John James punting year, a modest average (39.1) but an NFC-high 25 kicks inside the opponents 20 and only seven touchbacks. Ken Johnson led the conference in punt returns with a 12.2 mark, but another rookie, Reggie Smith, had caught the fancy of the Falcon fans before he was injured. The 5'4" free agent averaged 9.7 on punt returns and 20.5 on kickoff runbacks before succumbing to a knee injury in the ninth game.



THE DRAFT

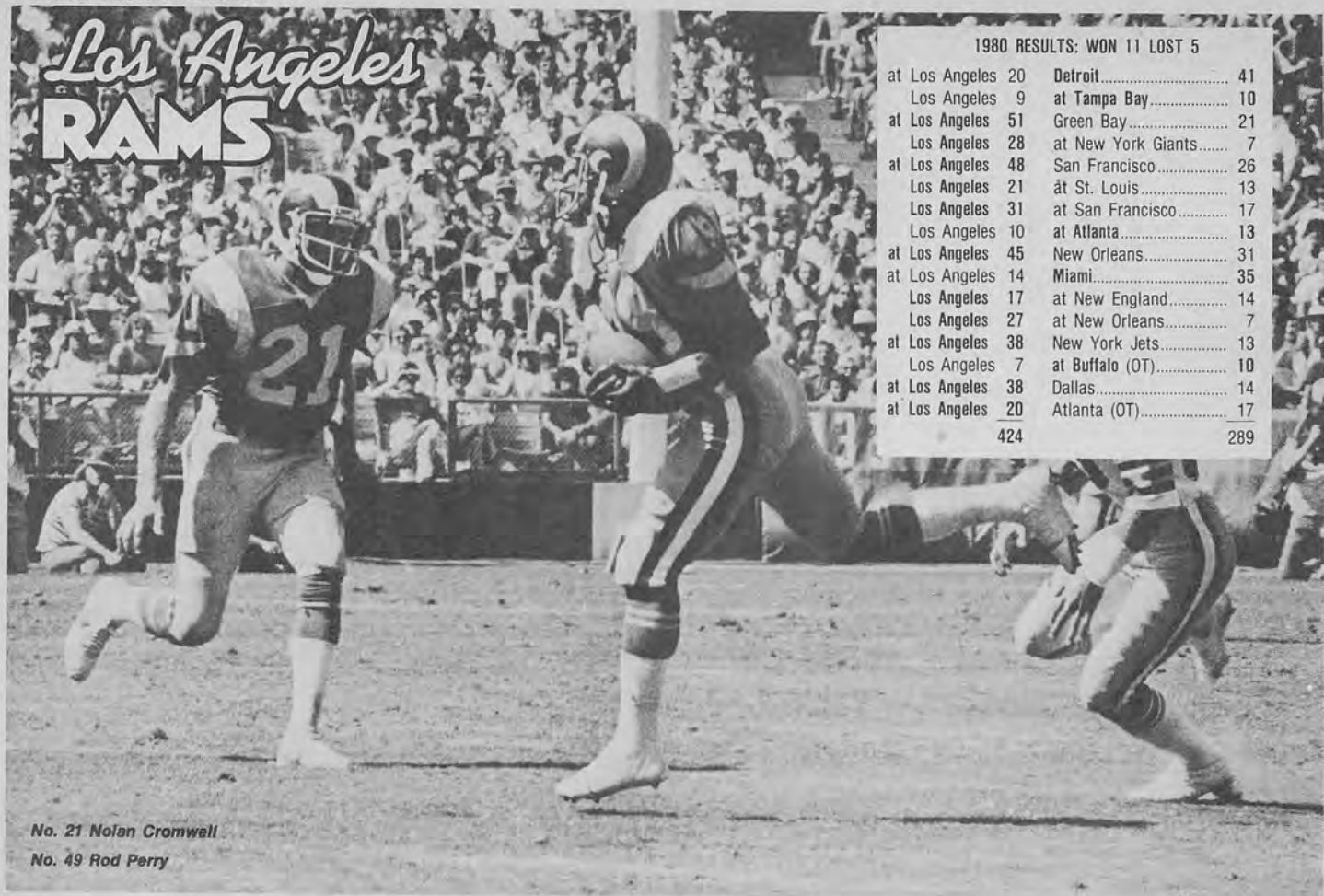
The Falcons remained on a defensive kick in the '81 draft, using seven of 11 choices, including their first three, to take defensive help. No. 1 pick Bobby Butler, a 165-pound cornerback from Florida State, illustrates Atlanta's need for help on the corners. Few teams rated Butler a first-rounder.

Lyman White, an undersized linebacker from LSU, was the second pick while national champion Georgia's Scott Woerner, a defensive back and kick returner, was added on the third round. Other picks included John Scully, the Notre Dame center who'll become Van Note's long-range replacement, and defensive tackle Harry Stanback off that solid North Carolina unit.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Bobby Butler	25	DB	Florida State
2.	Lyman White	54	LB	Louisiana State
3.	Scott Woerner	80	DB	Georgia
4.	John Scully	109	C	Notre Dame
5.	Eric Sanders	136	OT	Nevada-Reno
6.	Harry Stanback	164	OT	North Carolina
7.	(Used this choice in 1980 supplementary draft)			
8.	Clifford Toney	219	DB	Auburn
9.	Calvin Fance	245	RB	Rice
10.	Robert Murphy	274	DB	Ohio State
11.	Kelith Chappelle	301	WR	Iowa
12.	Mark McCants	330	DB	Temple

Los Angeles RAMS



No. 21 Nolan Cromwell

No. 49 Rod Perry

Perhaps the Rams thought a move into conservative Orange County, and away from the glamour and glitter of Hollywood, would end that soap opera that has followed the team in recent years. Instead, the first year in Anaheim produced more material than "Days of Our Lives" churns out in a decade.

The year after the trip to the Super Bowl opened with controversy and closed with Vince Ferragamo headed to Canada. In between, however, players from almost every other position took turns grabbing the spotlight from the activities on the field each week-end.

First there was the signing of No. 1 draft pick Johnnie Johnson to a contract worth more than a million bucks. In a classic exam-

ple of what one out-of-line contract can do to a club, four of the Rams' veterans took offense to the money given this rookie who had yet to put on his helmet with the famous ram-horns on the sides.

In fact, four of the vets were so upset they didn't even bother to answer coach Ray Malavasi's invitation to attend training camp. The Youngbloods, Jim and Jack, Dennis Harrah, and Larry Brooks, four pretty fair players, didn't show up until the regular season began.

Then, just when everything was settling down, linebacker Bob Brudzinski, since dealt to Miami, walked out around midseason.

Near the end of the year owner Georgia Frontiere was dragged into the Al Davis-Pete Rozelle controversy when Davis included her

in allegations concerning the sale of Super Bowl tickets. And after the season ended, quarterback Vince Ferragamo ended months of vacillation by signing on with the Montreal Alouettes.

Meanwhile, out on the field . . .

The Rams got off to a slow start because of the absence of the veteran quartet, but used a soft schedule to build a string of victories after that. L.A. lost to all the good teams it played until back-to-back wins over Dallas and Atlanta at the end of the regular season.

But the wild-card playoff loss to Dallas again accentuated the many problems the Rams faced throughout the year. And the future promises more of the continuing story of "As the Rams Turn."

1980 RESULTS: WON 11 LOST 5

at Los Angeles	20	Detroit.....	41
Los Angeles	9	at Tampa Bay.....	10
at Los Angeles	51	Green Bay.....	21
Los Angeles	28	at New York Giants.....	7
at Los Angeles	48	San Francisco.....	26
Los Angeles	21	at St. Louis.....	13
Los Angeles	31	at San Francisco.....	17
Los Angeles	10	at Atlanta.....	13
at Los Angeles	45	New Orleans.....	31
at Los Angeles	14	Miami.....	35
Los Angeles	17	at New England.....	14
Los Angeles	27	at New Orleans.....	7
at Los Angeles	38	New York Jets.....	13
Los Angeles	7	at Buffalo (OT).....	10
at Los Angeles	38	Dallas.....	14
at Los Angeles	20	Atlanta (OT).....	17
	424		289

Coaches: Ray Malavasi, Bud Carson, Hewitt Dixon, Clyde Evans, Paul Lantham, Frank Lauterbur, Herb Paterra, Dan Radakovich, Lionel Taylor, Jim Vecchiarella.

LOS ANGELES RAMS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	Birth date	College
52	Andrews, George	LB	6-3	223	3	11/28/55	Nebraska
84	Arnold, Walt	TE	6-2	225	2	8/31/58	New Mexico
82	Bain, Bill	G	6-4	277	7	8/9/52	Southern California
90	Brooks, Larry	DT	6-3	253	10	8/10/50	Virginia State-Petersburg
32	Bryant, Cullen	FB	6-1	236	9	5/20/51	Colorado
93	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	220	8	4/16/51	Kansas State
3	Corral, Frank	K-P	6-2	228	4	6/16/55	UCLA
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	193	5	1/30/55	Kansas
41	Delaney, Jeff	S	6-0	195	2	12/28/56	Pittsburgh
88	Demnard, Preston	WR	6-1	183	4	11/28/55	New Mexico
71	Doss, Reggie	DE	6-4	267	4	12/7/56	Hampton Institute
89	Dryer, Fred	DE	6-4	231	13	7/8/46	San Diego State
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	223	5	5/27/54	San Jose State
79	Fanning, Mike	DT	6-6	252	7	2/2/53	Notre Dame
77	France, Doug	T	6-5	270	7	4/26/53	Ohio State
44	Guman, Mike	RB	6-2	210	2	4/21/58	Penn State
11	Haden, Pat	QB	5-11	185	6	1/23/53	Southern California
9	Hare, Eddie	P	6-4	209	2	5/30/57	Tulsa
90	Harrah, Dennis	G-C	6-5	255	7	3/9/53	Miami
51	Harris, Joe	LB	6-1	224	6	12/6/52	Georgia Tech

81	Hicks, Victor	TE	6-3	250	2	1/19/57	Oklahoma
87	Hill, Drew	WR-KR	5-9	170	3	10/5/56	Georgia Tech
24	Hill, Eddie	RB-KR	5-2	210	3	5/13/57	Memphis State
72	Hill, Kent	G	6-5	260	3	3/7/57	Georgia Tech
63	Horton, Greg	G-C	6-4	245	7	1/1/51	Colorado
47	Irvin, La Roy	CB-PR	5-11	180	2	9/15/57	Kansas
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	185	2	10/8/56	Texas
76	Jones, Cody	DT	6-5	244	7	5/3/51	San Jose State
19	Lee, Bob	QB	6-2	190	13	8/7/46	Pacific
54	McGlosson, Ed	C	6-4	260	3	7/11/56	Youngstown
82	Miller, Willie	WR	5-9	172	6	4/26/48	Colorado State
88	Moore, Jeff	WR	6-1	200	2	3/2/57	Tennessee
95	Murphy, Phil	DT	6-5	260	2	9/26/57	South Carolina State
83	Nelson, Terry	TE	6-2	240	8	5/20/51	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
75	Pankney, Irv	T	6-4	270	2	2/15/58	Penn State
34	Peacock, Elvis	RB	6-1	208	3	11/7/56	Oklahoma
49	Perry, Rod	CB	5-9	162	7	9/11/53	Colorado
8	Rugledge, Jeff	QB	6-2	202	3	1/22/57	Alabama
61	Saul, Rich	C	6-3	245	12	2/5/48	Michigan State
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-1	271	6	5/27/54	Jackson State
5	Smith, Doug	C-G	6-3	255	4	11/25/56	Bowling Green
24	Smith, Lucious	CB	5-10	190	2	1/17/57	Cal State-Fullerton
37	Sully, Ivory	S	6-0	193	3	6/20/57	Delaware
33	Thomas, Jewell	RB	5-10	223	3	9/10/57	San Jose State
27	Thomas, Pat	CB	5-9	182	6	9/1/54	Texas A&M
26	Tyler, Wendell	RB	5-10	195	4	5/20/55	UCLA
30	Waddy, Billy	WR	5-11	188	5	2/19/54	Colorado
57	Westbrooks, Greg	LB	6-3	220	7	2/24/53	Colorado
85	Youngblood, Jack	DE	6-4	244	11	1/26/50	Florida
53	Youngblood, Jim	LB	6-3	231	9	2/23/50	Tennessee Tech

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Malavasi wasn't destroyed by Ferragamo's decision to take the money north of the border. He didn't even draft a quarterback, showing his faith in Pat Haden, Bob Lee, and Jeff Rutledge. "I have all the confidence in the world that Pat Haden can do the job," he said. "He has character and leadership ability. He could lead us to the Super Bowl." Haden actually began the 1980 season as the Rams starter but broke a finger on his throwing hand in the opener and yielded to Ferragamo, who went on to throw for 30 touchdowns and return the word "bomb" to the Rams' playbook. Haden just doesn't match up, physically, to Ferragamo. Lee, the former Viking and Falcon, and Rutledge will be the backups to the Rhodes Scholar.

Running backs—Injuries riddled the running back corps, particularly late in the year. But there definitely was a silver lining in that dark cloud, because it gave Malavasi the chance to discover two promising young backs in Jewel Thomas and Mike Guman. The two had been playing on special teams until Eddie Hill, Wendell Tyler, and Elvis Peacock all were sidelined late in the year. Thomas exploded for back-to-back games of 147 and 144 yards against the Cowboys and Falcons, finishing with a spectacular 6.6 average on his 65 carries. Guman wound up with 410 yards on 100 carries, 14 receptions, and a 31-yard TD on an option pass. Peacock, who had 777 yards before he was injured, and the steady Cullen Bryant, who led the club with 807, were the regulars most of the year. Tyler, the breakaway threat, was injured in an off-season auto accident, then hurt his elbow once he did return to the field. He wound up with 157 yards while Hill had 120.

Receivers—Billy Waddy's speed and athletic ability had stamped him a potential star, but until last year the former Colorado burner never had put together a complete season. In 1980, however, Waddy grabbed 38 passes, second on the team behind running back Bryant's 53, for 670 yards and five scores. Preston Dennard, with those precise patterns and even more precise hands, caught 36, six for scores. Willie Miller bounced back from a season lost to injury to catch 22, and bettered both regulars by totaling an amazing eight scores among his receptions. Jeff Moore, who had 10 receptions, and kick returner Drew Hill, who had 19, including a 74-yard scoring strike from Ferragamo, provide further depth. A groin injury cost tight end Terry Nelson most of the season, so Victor Hicks, who had missed his rookie year of 1979 with an injury, stepped in to catch 23. Walt Arnold, a free



No. 85 Jack Youngblood

agent rookie, became a solid No. 3 man.

Offensive line—For years Harrah and Doug France had been considered the top members of the very proficient Rams front line. But last year Harrah's late arrival and France's succession of nagging injuries allowed left guard Kent Hill and right tackle Jackie Slater to stand out. Hill, who stepped in as a rookie in '79, quickly has developed into one of the top guards in the league. Slater's work had been underrated until last year. Rich Saul turned in yet another solid season at center. Doug Smith was doing a more than adequate job in Harrah's right guard spot until he suffered a midseason knee injury. Rookie Irv Pankey, who has a future, and retreads Bill Bain and Greg Horton provide backup material. Tom Pettigrew, a tackle injured last summer, returns for another shot.

DEFENSE

Line—Malavasi actually employed six men in the four spots, with one position signaling the changing of the guard, or rather the end. Reggie Doss played more and more for 35-year-old Freddie Dryer at right end and had 6½ sacks to 5½ for Dryer. Jack Youngblood, despite his absence from training camp, led the club with 11 sacks, but a shoulder injury and surgery make him questionable for '81. Tackle Mike Fanning was next with 10 sacks while his partner, Pro Bowler Brooks, had another topflight year with 8½ sacks and 54 tackles. Cody Jones, back from a 1979 injury, was the sixth man, and he had four sacks as the Rams reached the opposing quarterbacks an NFC-high 56 times. Young Phil Murphy didn't get much chance to play as a rookie, but he should get more opportunity in the future.

Linebackers—The unsettled Rams are attempting to de-fuse their potential fire-storm by ridding themselves of malcontents. Two of

the three starting linebackers of 1980 were caught and found guilty of negative syndrome and have been dispatched, middle linebacker Jack Reynolds and outside backer Bob Brudzinski. Reynolds was told he would not be tendered a contract for '81, despite his well-known on-the-field capabilities. Brudzinski, a mid-season walkout in '80, was traded to Miami. The Rams are spending top considerations in sharing up, however. Their first two draft choices were Mel Owens of Michigan and Jim Collins of Syracuse. They'll likely be a year or so away from clinching starting spots, so let's guess that this year's order of candidacy might be: Middle—Jim Youngblood (a natural for the middle), Carl Ekern, and Collins. Outside—Jim Youngblood (if he doesn't move inside), George Andrews, Owens, Joe Harris, Greg Westbrook, and ninth-round choice Ron Seawell. Excess baggage from this list could bring good draft choices in trade.

Secondary—One man who caused no problems, except for opposing teams, was free safety Nolan Cromwell. He led the NFC with eight interceptions and broke up 23 other passes. He also got in on 101 tackles in gaining NFC Defensive Player of the Year honors. Johnson, his highly paid running mate, became a strength at strong safety with his 98 tackles, 37 passes defended, and three interceptions, one of which he returned 99 yards for a score against Green Bay. The corners, Rod Perry and Pat Thomas, both earned Pro Bowl trips although Thomas had to pull out because of a late-season ankle injury. That gave rookies Leroy Irvin, a third-round choice, and Lucius Smith, a free agent, some post-season experience in the loss to the Cowboys. Nickel-man Jeff Delaney and dime-man Ivory Sully contributed on specials as well as in the situation defenses. Sully's hard hits caused three fumbles.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The noble experiment which saw Frank Corral serve as the only two-way kicker in the league had mixed results. Corral, who had been just a placekicker in the past, had a decent 39.5 punting norm and only five touchbacks in his 76 kicks. But perhaps the double duty put too much strain on Corral's leg as his placekicking from the longer distances dropped off. He was just 2-of-12 from 40-yards-or-more and 16-of-30 overall. The Rams inability to replace long-snapper Dan Ryczek, who retired, hurt Corral's efforts, too. Drew Hill had a 98-yard TD scamper among his 43 kickoff returns, averaging 20.5 yards per try. Irvin did the punt return work and had a 7.0 norm.



THE DRAFT

Although he did not take a quarterback, Malavasi did stock up in one of his other problem areas by picking two linebackers with his first two selections. No. 1 pick Mel Owens of Michigan is an outside backer who could either provide backup strength for Jim Youngblood and Andrews, or move in on the weak side if Youngblood takes over in the middle for Reynolds. No. 2 pick Jim Collins of Syracuse would be another candidate for an opening at middle linebacker.

Malavasi also looked for depth at his questionable defensive end spots with Pitt's Greg Meisner (No. 3), who also could play tackle if Cody Jones were switched to end, and Arizona's Robert Cobb (No. 4).

Malavasi had wanted a tight end who can get deep but didn't get one until the seventh round, when he grabbed North Texas State's Ren Battle.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1	(From Washington) Mel Owens	9	LB	Michigan
2	(Choice to Washington) (From Miami) Jim Collins	43	LB	Syracuse
3	(Choice to Minnesota) (From Tampa Bay) Greg Meisner	63	DE	Pittsburgh
4	(From Washington) Bob Cobb	66	DE	Arizona
5	(Choice to Kansas City) (From Buffalo) George Ulla	104	C	Michigan
6	(Choice to Green Bay) (Choice to Washington) William Daniels	158	DT	Alabama State
7	(From Washington) Ren Battle	175	TE	North Texas State
8	Mike Clark	190	DE	Florida
9	Art Plunkett	216	OT	Nevada-Las Vegas
10	Ren Seawell	242	LB	Portland State
11	Robert Alexander	269	RB	West Virginia
12	Marcellus Greene	296	DB	Arizona
	Jairo Penaranda	328	RB	UCLA

San Francisco 49ers

1980 RESULTS: WON 6 LOST 10

San Fran.....	26	at New Orleans.....	23
at San Fran.....	24	St. Louis (OT).....	21
San Fran.....	37	at New York Jets.....	27
at San Fran.....	17	Atlanta.....	20
San Fran.....	26	at Los Angeles.....	48
San Fran.....	14	at Dallas.....	59
at San Fran.....	17	Los Angeles.....	31
at San Fran.....	23	Tampa Bay.....	24
San Fran.....	13	at Detroit.....	17
San Fran.....	16	at Green Bay.....	23
San Fran.....	13	at Miami.....	17
at San Fran.....	12	New York Giants.....	0
at San Fran.....	21	New England.....	17
at San Fran.....	38	New Orleans (OT).....	35
San Fran.....	10	at Atlanta.....	35
at San Fran.....	13	Buffalo.....	18
	320		415

No. 16 Joe Montana

It was great at the beginning, and not bad at the end. But in the middle it was a season the San Francisco 49ers would like to forget, and one they hope to improve in 1981.

"We made progress," said head coach Bill Walsh. "We might have had a lot better won/lost record were it not for those two injuries."

The Niners started off with three straight wins and it appeared that they, and not the Falcons, would be the NFC surprise team of 1980. But in that third win over the Jets, defensive end Dwaine Board went out for the season with a knee injury.

The next week San Francisco embarked on an eight-game losing streak, during which all-purpose star Paul Hofer also was lost for the season. The team righted itself in time to win three of its last five and finish with a 6-10 mark, up from the 2-14 record of 1979.

Board and Hofer both are expected to be healthy again for 1981. And it's not to say their presence throughout the 1980 campaign would have made the Niners a playoff team. But the steam definitely was let out of the 3-0 balloon in that game with the Jets when Board was helped off the field.

It took San Francisco nearly two months to regroup defensively from that loss, and only a 10-sack effort against the Giants could revive the unit. Meanwhile, Hofer's running and receiving, which had accounted for 760 yards in the first six games, never was adequately replaced, although Don Woods and Lenvil Elliott tried.

Hofer's loss put more pressure on rookie fullback Earl Cooper, who responded with a conference high 83 receptions and 720 yards on the ground. Board's absence gave Jim Stuckey, chosen in the first round along with Cooper in the 1980 draft, a chance to gain some experience.

This youthful experience, and the six victories the young 49ers compiled last year, are two reasons why Walsh considered the season a successful step in his building program, which targets next season, or the year after, as playoff time for his Niners.

"We've established a very positive, confident atmosphere in the organization, especially among the players," Walsh said. "When I was hired, one of the most difficult hurdles was the team's low motivation. I feel the current mood has overcome that. We've become competitive psychologically and emotionally."

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Around and around it goes, and where it stops...? Right now, Walsh's revolving quarterback game has stopped on Joe Montana. The former Notre

Coaches: Bill Walsh, Norb Hecker, Milt Jackson, Billie Mathews, Bobb McKittrick, Bill McPherson, George Siefert, Chuck Studley, Al Vermeil, Sam Wyche.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	NFL Birth-Exp.	College
68	Ayers, John	G	6-5	255	5 4/15/53	West Texas State
77	Barrett, Jean	T	6-6	250	9 5/24/51	Tulsa
	Biedermann, Leo	T	6-7	275	2 10/19/55	California
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	245	3 11/29/56	North Carolina A&T
72	Bungarda, Kestutis	T	6-6	270	2 1/25/57	Missouri
57	Bunz, Dan	LB	6-4	225	4 10/7/55	Cal State-Long Beach
33	Churchman, Ricky	S	6-0	193	2 3/14/58	Texas
87	Clark, Dwight	WR	6-3	205	3 1/8/57	Clemson
49	Cooper, Earl	FB	6-2	226	2 9/17/57	Rice
28	Cornelius, Charles	CB	5-9	178	5 7/27/52	Bethune-Cookman
51	Cross, Randy	G	6-3	255	6 4/25/54	UCLA
17	De Berg, Steve	QB	6-2	205	5 1/19/54	San Jose State
62	Downing, Walt	C-G	6-3	254	4 6/11/56	Michigan
35	Elliott, Lenvil	RB	6-0	210	9 9/2/51	Northeast Missouri
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	FB	6-6	263	8 2/6/52	Minnesota
38	Ferrell, Bob	T	6-0	220	6 11/13/52	UCLA
48	Francis, Phil	FB	6-1	215	3 1/10/57	Stanford
82	Gilbert, Lewis	TE	6-4	225	3 5/24/56	Florida
59	Harper, Willie	LB	6-2	215	8 7/30/50	Nebraska
22	Hicks, Dwight	S	6-1	189	3 4/5/56	Michigan

55	Hilton, Scott	LB	6-4	230	3 5/28/54	No college
36	Hofer, Paul	RB	6-0	195	6 5/13/52	Mississippi
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	200	8 4/27/51	Florida State
44	Johnson, Charles	CB	5-10	180	3 5/5/56	Grambling
57	Leopold, Bobby	LB	6-1	215	2 10/18/57	Notre Dame
3	Miller, Jim	P	5-11	185	2 7/5/57	Mississippi
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	200	3 6/11/56	Notre Dame
89	Owens, James	WR	5-11	188	3 7/5/55	UCLA
42	Patton, Ricky	RB	5-11	192	4 4/6/54	Jackson State
65	Pillars, Lawrence	DE	6-3	260	6 11/4/52	Alcorn State
54	Puky, Craig	LB	6-1	230	2 1/18/57	Tennessee
56	Quilan, Fred	C	6-5	250	4 1/27/56	Oregon
80	Ramson, Eason	TE	6-2	235	3 4/30/56	Washington State
78	Reese, Archie	DT	6-3	262	4 2/4/56	Clemson
26	Rhodes, Ray	CB	5-11	185	8 10/20/50	Tulsa
85	Robinson, Jimmy	WR	5-9	170	6 1/3/53	Georgia Tech
67	Singleton, Ron	T	6-7	267	5 4/15/52	Grambling
88	Solomon, Freddie	WR	5-11	188	7 1/11/53	Tampa
79	Stuckey, Jim	DE	6-4	250	2 6/21/58	Clemson
50	Tautolo, Terry	LB	6-2	235	6 8/30/54	UCLA
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	220	2 10/22/58	Purdue
75	Vincent, Ted	DT	6-4	265	4 8/10/56	Wichita State
90	Vieger, George	DT	6-4	250	2 9/25/58	Colorado
74	Webb, Jimmy	DE	6-5	247	7 4/13/52	Mississippi State
14	Wersching, Ray	K	5-11	222	9 3/21/50	California
60	Wilkinson, Jerry	DE	6-9	260	3 2/27/56	Oregon State
29	Williams, Gerard	CB	6-1	184	5 5/25/52	Langston
23	Williams, Herb	CB	6-0	198	2 8/30/58	Southern University
47	Woods, Don	RB	6-2	204	8 2/17/51	New Mexico
86	Young, Charlie	TE	6-4	235	9 2/5/51	Southern California

Dame star enters training camp as San Francisco's No. 1 signal caller ahead of Steve DeBerg, with whom he alternated most of last season. Montana started the final five games and wound up completing a 49er record 64.5 percent of his passes and became the first Niner quarterback since 1972 to throw more TDs than interceptions (15 to 9). Walsh, a renowned master at developing quarterbacks, has a little stronger arm to work with on Montana than on DeBerg, who completed 58 percent of his passes a year ago. Gary Huff finished the year as the No. 3 man.

Running backs—Cooper and Hofer were off to great starts before the latter was injured a year ago. Walsh says he had hoped for more rushing yardage from Cooper, the 230-pounder from Rice. "I don't think our opinion of him has changed, it's just going to take longer than we expected," said Walsh, despite Cooper's none-too-shabby rookie stats. Hofer's knee injury was serious, but he's expected back. Walsh has a group of veterans behind the starting duo in ex-Bengal Elliott (341 yards, 27 catches), former Charger Woods (229-20), Phil Francis (36-3), Ricky Patton, and special teams captain Bobby Ferrell. Francis, who played for Walsh at Stanford, was injured much of last season and underwent off-season knee surgery (as did Elliott), but could provide Cooper with some relief this time.

Receivers—Dwight Clark didn't make All-World, or even All-Pro, but the former Clemson receiver certainly had an all-star season with 82 catches, which tied him for tops among NFL wide receivers with San Diego's John Jefferson, for 991 yards and eight touchdowns. Freddie Solomon scored eight times with his 48 receptions on the other flank. A series of injuries (knee, hamstring, hip) kept sprinter James Owens from blossoming into the deep threat the Niners need. But Walsh still thinks the former UCLA star will be great in time. Dependable Jimmy Robinson adds depth at the outside spots. Charlie Young, the former Eagle and Ram star, caught 29 passes from his tight end spot, but faces a challenge from journeyman Eason Ramson, who grabbed 21. Ex-Falcon Lewis Gilbert was a late-season roster addition, while Eddy Whitely was added in the off-season.

Offensive line—Randy Cross lacks only the notoriety (which, for an offensive lineman, usually comes with playing for a winner) to gain Pro Bowl status as a guard. He and veteran tackle Keith Fahnhorst are the mainstays of an underrated offensive line which specializes, naturally, in protecting the passer.



No. 87 Dwight Clark

DeBerg and Montana were dumped only 29 times on 594 pass plays in 1980. Other members of the offensive front (which also effectively blocks on sweep plays to either side) are guard John Ayers, tackle Ron Singleton, and center Fred Quillan. Jean Barrett, who started several games when Singleton was injured last year; Walt Downing, who can fill in at either guard or center; Kestutis (Ken) Buncurda, a former defensive tackle converted to offense; free agents Leo Biedermann, John Choma, Charles Stone, and Greg Kolenda are the reserves.

DEFENSE

Line—One of Walsh's biggest decisions for '81 is whether to use the 4-3, 3-4, or both. The Niners experienced some defensive success in the later weeks of 1980 when the coaches employed both fronts. Board, the top sacker in '79; Stuckey, who led the club with 8½ sacks last year; and Archie Reese, the team's top defensive performer with 90 tackles and 4½ sacks last year, are better suited for 4-3 play. But Walsh did not have a healthy veteran from among ex-Jet Lawrence Pillers, one-time starter Jimmy Webb, and young George Visger to line up as the fourth starter

(at right tackle). Huge (6'9") Jerry Wilkinson, who flunked in L.A. and Cleveland, will get another shot with the Niners.

Linebackers—One reason Walsh may use more 3-4 in 1981 is to get the maximum from his fine group of young linebackers. Dan Bunz, something of a disappointment in '79, bounced back with a good season in '80, leading the team with 112 tackles from his middle (or inside) spot. Bunz got a second chance when Scott Hilton was hurt. Now Hilton and ex-Eagle Terry Tautolo, who combined on 161 stops in '80, are available to team with Bunz in a 3-4. Bobby Leopold, who made the All-Rookie team, and steady veteran Willie Harper are the outside regulars. Another pair of last year's rookies, Keena Turner and Craig Puki, are behind them. It was Turner's interception in the final minutes that preserved the Niners' 21-17 upset of the Patriots, a game Walsh termed, "probably the most significant victory the 49ers have had in a great many years."

Secondary—Another member of last year's fine draft crop (eight of 11 made the team) was Ricky Churchman, who stepped in at strong safety. Churchman was effective with four interceptions and 75 tackles, but lacked foot speed. He and Dwight Hicks, second on the team with 102 tackles to go with four interceptions, formed the final line of defense. Charles Johnson, a second-year man, stepped in at right corner and according to Walsh made tremendous improvement as the year progressed. The left corner, however, was unsettled throughout the year. Former Giant Ray Rhodes, ex-Redskin Gerard Williams, and one-time Dolphin Charles Cornelius all had shots at the position. Herb Williams, another second-year man, will vie for a back-up job at safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Still another of the 49er Class of 1980, was barefooted punter Jim Miller. He averaged 40.9 per kick and had only five touchbacks included among his 77 punts. Ray Wersching missed only four field goals out of 19 tries, but was off on six of 39 conversions. Wersching's .789 field goal percentage led the NFC for the second straight year. He's connected on 35 of his last 43 attempts. Owens, despite his injury problems, ranked third in kickoff returns with a 23.4 average and broke a 101-yarder against Detroit. He pulled up lame at the end of that run, however. Solomon had a pair of scoring returns with punts and wound up second in the conference with an 11.0 norm. Walsh would like to find another return specialist to free his two receivers to concentrate full time on pass catching.

THE DRAFT

Walsh left little doubt as to where he needs help. He used four of his first five draft picks to add defensive backs, starting off with Southern Cal All-American Ronnie Lott, who could be a cornerback or a safety with the Niners.

Other secondary performers added were cornerbacks Eric Wright of Missouri (No. 24) and Lynn Thomas of Pitt (No. 5), plus safety Carlton Williamson, also of Pitt (No. 3). That's potentially a new defensive backfield.

Iowa's John Hartley, good against the run but only a fair pass rusher, was plucked on the second round and another defensive lineman, Penn State's Pete Kugler, was picked sixth. Three running backs, including sleeper Arrington Jones of Winston-Salem (No. 54), also were selected.

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	Ronnie Lott (From Washington)	8	DB	Southern California
2.	John Hartley (Choice to Chicago)	35	DT	Iowa
2.	Eric Wright (From Chicago)			
3.	Carlton Williamson (Choice to Dallas)	40	DB	Missouri
4.	Lynn Thomas (From Chicago)	65	DB	Pittsburgh
5.	Lynn Thomas (From Chicago)	121	DB	Pittsburgh
5.	Arrington Jones	122	RB	Winston-Salem State
6.	Pete Kugler	147	DT	Penn State
7.	(Choice to Philadelphia)			
8.	Gerry White	203	RB	Minnesota
9.	(Choice to Cincinnati)			
10.	(Choice to Baltimore)			
11.	Ronnie DeBose	266	TE	UCLA
12.	Major Ogilvie (From Pittsburgh)	313	RB	Alabama
12.	Jon Adams	322	QB	Tennessee State



New Orleans SAINTS



1980 RESULTS: WON 1 LOST 15

at N. Orleans... 23	San Francisco.....26
N. Orleans... 3	at Chicago.....22
at N. Orleans... 26	Buffalo.....35
N. Orleans... 16	at Miami.....21
at N. Orleans... 7	St. Louis.....40
N. Orleans... 13	at Detroit.....24
at N. Orleans... 14	Atlanta.....41
N. Orleans... 14	at Washington.....22
N. Orleans... 31	at Los Angeles.....45
at N. Orleans... 21	Philadelphia.....34
N. Orleans... 13	at Atlanta.....31
at N. Orleans... 7	Los Angeles.....27
at N. Orleans... 20	Minnesota.....23
N. Orleans... 35	at San Francisco (OT).....38
N. Orleans... 21	at New York Jets.....20
at N. Orleans... 27	New England.....38
291	487

No. 8 Archie Manning

Bum Phillips had hoped to be the center of attention during Super Bowl week. And, for one day, the folksy head coach was the most talked-about man in New Orleans, but not for the reason he originally desired.

Phillips had hoped to lead the Houston Oilers into the bayou country for a date with some NFC foe in Super Bowl XV. He talked about kicking down the steel door after several years of getting nothing but a sore foot.

But the Oilers were disappointed. While they kicked at the moldy old steel door, Cleveland waltzed past them to the AFC Central championship. And when they lost to the Raiders in the Wild Card game, it was "Good-bye Bum! Thanks for everything" in Houston.

Then why were all those reporters buzzing around Phillips during Super Bowl week? He had moved from the disappointing Oilers to what had to be the most disastrous franchise of 1980. If Houston had let down its backers, then what had the Saints done to their faithful?

It was supposed to be the season New Orleans finally put together a playoff caliber effort. But instead, 1980 wound up with fans wearing bags over their heads at the Superdome, the "S" being dropped from the front of "Saints," and the entire NFL treating a New Orleans win over the almost equally disappointing Jets as a genuine happening.

That's because the victory on the next-to-last weekend of the season was the only one the Saints would collect all year. Never before had a team lost as many as 15 games in one season. But then again, until last year there never had been a team quite like the Aints.

So is Bum just making the proverbial frying pan-to-fire leap? He doesn't think so.

"I'm convinced Houston did me a big favor by firing me," he says. "I'm convinced we can win here. And if I can't win here, then I shouldn't be coaching."

Phillips, like many others, was bewildered by the Saints' plunge from an 8-8 record in 1979 to the 1-15 mark in '80. He looks at the talent he has available and says it is better than the group he took over in Houston back in '75. That, and the full control given him by beleaguered owner John Mecom, were two reasons Phillips brought his 10-gallon hat and cowboy boots to the French Quarter.

"A good coach doesn't screw up good players and makes the average player better," he said in describing his general philosophy. Apparently he thinks he has enough of the former group, and the ability to help the latter group, so that some day in the near future he'll be the main attraction of a Super Bowl week—for the right reasons!

Coaches: O. A. (Bum) Phillips, King Hill, John Levra, Lamar McHan, Wade Phillips, Harold Richardson, Joe Spencer, Lance Van Zandt, John Paul Young, Willie Zapalac.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS 1981 VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	HT.	WT.	NFL Birth-Exp.	College
80	Banks, Gordon	WR	5-9	178	2 3/12/58	Stanford
7	Benjamin, Guy	QB	6-4	210	4 6/27/55	Stanford
63	Bennett, Barry	DT	6-4	257	4 12/10/55	Concordia, Minn.
50	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4	226	5 8/26/54	Louisiana State
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	275	2 6/8/58	Colorado
27	Brown, Ray	SS	6-2	202	11 1/12/49	West Texas State
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	5-11	186	4 8/22/56	Florida
85	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	220	8 4/16/51	Kansas State
43	Collins, Larry	RB	5-11	190	3 8/8/55	Texas A&I
86	Donovan, Tom	WR	5-11	180	2 5/11/58	Penn State
17	Dorsey, Larry	WR	6-0	190	4 8/15/53	Tennessee State
14	Ertel, Russell	P	6-4	220	2 1/13/57	Texas
58	Federspiel, Joe	LB	6-2	230	10 5/6/50	Kentucky
72	Fultz, Mike	DT	6-5	278	5 1/28/54	Nebraska
94	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6-1	230	6 1/29/54	Missouri
53	Green, Sammy	LB	6-2	230	6 10/12/54	Florida
78	Grooms, Elols	DE	6-4	250	7 5/20/53	Tennessee Tech
55	Hardeman, Don	LB	6-2	235	7 8/13/53	Texas A&I
87	Hardy, Larry	TE	6-3	230	4 7/9/56	Jackson State
82	Harris, Ike	WR	6-3	210	7 11/27/52	Iowa State
62	Hill, John	C	6-2	246	10 4/16/50	Lehigh

51	Holloway, Stan	LB	6-2	218	2 9/28/57	California
45	Holmes, Jack	FB	6-0	210	4 6/20/53	Texas Southern
52	Kovach, Jim	LB	6-2	225	3 5/1/56	Kentucky
64	Lafary, Dave	T	6-7	280	5 1/13/55	Purdue
8	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3	200	11 5/19/49	Mississippi
23	Marshall, James	CB	6-0	187	2 9/8/53	Jackson State
56	Mathis, Reggie	LB	6-2	220	3 3/18/56	Oklahoma
84	Mauti, Rich	WR	6-0	190	5 5/25/54	Penn State
26	Merkens, Guido	S-CB	6-1	200	4 8/14/55	Sam Houston State
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4	253	9 10/7/51	Oklahoma
37	Myers, Tom	S	6-0	180	10 10/24/50	Syracuse
49	Owens, Artie	WR	5-10	182	6 1/14/53	West Virginia
83	Owens, Tinker	WR	5-11	170	6 10/3/54	Oklahoma
96	Parker, Steve	DE	6-6	265	2 12/8/56	Idaho
76	Pietrzak, Jim	C	6-5	260	7 2/21/53	Eastern Michigan
75	Price, Elex	DT	6-3	265	9 8/11/50	Alcorn State
22	Ray, Ricky	CB	5-11	180	3 5/30/57	Norfolk State
60	Reese, Don	DE	6-6	255	7 9/4/51	Jackson State
1	Ricardo, Benny	K	5-10	170	5 1/4/54	San Diego State
41	Rogers, Jimmy	RB	5-10	190	2 6/29/55	Oklahoma
48	Schwartz, Don	S	6-1	191	4 2/24/56	Washington State
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1	197	10 4/2/49	Tennessee
47	Spivey, Mike	CB	6-0	198	4 3/10/54	Colorado
68	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4	255	7 1/6/51	Bowling Green
71	Taylor, James	T	6-4	265	4 8/12/56	Missouri
44	Waymer, Dave	CB	6-1	195	2 7/1/58	Notre Dame
88	Williams, Brooks	TE	6-4	226	4 12/7/54	North Carolina
30	Wilson, Wayne	FB	6-3	208	3 9/4/57	Shepherd
65	Woods, Robert	G-T	6-4	259	9 7/26/50	Tennessee State
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1	248	8 7/31/51	Jackson State

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks—Phillips admits he may not have used Ken Stabler's talents to full advantage last year in Houston. So he promises to tailor his New Orleans attack to the many attributes of quarterback Archie Manning, who had talked about retirement and trade following the miserable 1980 season. Now Archie looks like the man who'll be putting the "S" back in Saints, although the collapse last year was in no way his fault. Manning completed better than 60 percent of his passes for more than 3700 yards and actually had a plus TD-to-interception ratio: 23-to-20. He finished ahead of Danny White, Joe Theismann, and Tommy Kramer in the passing ratings. His help, however, was minimal. Guy Benjamin was brought in from Miami as a long-range replacement possibility, but wound up throwing just 17 passes. Veteran backup Bobby Scott threw almost twice as many, 33, in the few times Manning wasn't behind center.

Running backs—Phillips' offense in Houston was named Earl Campbell. Now he hopes he has acquired a runner somewhat in the Campbell mold for New Orleans. Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers, not quite as big nor as fast as Campbell, nevertheless will be the main man carrying the ball for the Saints. Phillips envisions blending Rogers' abilities with Manning's arm in a well-balanced attack. The other back probably will be Tony Galbreath, a good runner-receiver-blocker who fell off to 308 yards last year. Another Rogers, free agent Jimmy, wound up leading the team with 366 yards, taking over at halfback after Chuck Muncie was dealt to San Diego. Other hopefuls are fullbacks Jack Holmes and Wayne Wilson, plus free agent halfbacks Larry Collins and Anthony Jones.

Receivers—In 1980, the Saints counted heavily on Wes Chandler and Henry Childs, both Pro Bowl designees after the 1979 season. Chandler was more than an adequate receiver in 1980, with 65 receptions for a 15-yard average. But Childs was a big disappointment, catching 34. So he was shunted off to Washington and quickly traded to Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the Saints picked Hoby Brenner of Southern Cal on the third round (71st pick) of the draft. He might have been the 171st and still probably would have been the odds-on choice to win the starting tight end job. Backups probably will be Brooks Williams and Larry Hardy. Ike Harris was Chandler's running mate last year, and among the other contenders for wide receiver positions are veteran Tinker Owens, special teams ace Rich Mauti, youngsters Tom Donovan and Gordon Banks, utilitymen Artie Ow-



No. 34 Tony Galbreath

ens and Guido Merkens, and draftees Kevin Williams and Lester Mickens.

Offensive line—Although they were in need of defensive help, the former Saints' regime of Steve Rosenbloom, Dick Steinberg, and Dick Nolan used their first draft pick a year ago to grab offensive tackle Stan Brock from Colorado. "Too good to pass up," was the reasoning. Brock started, then was benched for awhile, and generally had a very rookie-like first season. Vets James Taylor, Emanuel Zanders, and John Hill are competent members of the front line, and Fred Sturt moved in for the traded Conrad Dobler at the guard spot opposite Zanders. Robert Woods, who lost his job to Brock, got it back; Dave Lafary and long-snapper Jim Pietrzak are the veteran reserves behind a unit that yielded a relatively high total of 46 sacks and blocked for the least rushing yardage in the NFC.

DEFENSE

Line—The Saints finished at the bottom of the total defensive stats and gave up the most rushing yardage in the NFC. Phillips will abandon the flex defense installed by Nolan, and he is quite sure that he'll employ the 3-4 he used in Houston. He has one solid end in Elois Grooms (88 tackles, eight sacks), but vet Don Reese was suspended late last year and Tommy Hart, another vet, did not receive a free agent qualifying offer. Tackle Derland Moore was talking about retirement, which would leave Mike Fultz (no sacks), Barry Bennett (one sack), Elex Price (no sacks), and second-year man Steve Parker (one sack), injured part of the year, as potential comrades for Grooms. The lack of talent here is compatible with Bum's decision for the 3-4.

Linebackers—There isn't an overwhelming amount of talent behind the front line, but there appears to be more hope than up front. Middle linebacker Joe Federspiel lost his job to Jim Kovach a year ago, then got it back when Kovach suffered a knee injury. Federspiel finished second on the team in tackles with 112. And Chuck Evans, a rookie activated late in the year, also played some in the middle, giving Bum three possibles for inside backers in a 3-4. Ken Bordelon and Reggie Mathis played most of the season on the outside, and while they didn't exactly perform up to Pro Bowl standards, they are young and physically able. Vet Dave Washington and young Dave Holloway, plus Lester Boyd, a draftee who lost his rookie season to a hand injury, are other hopefuls. And the Saints signed two interesting free agents: Don Hardeman, who has played in the league as a running back but who played linebacker in college; and Sammy Green, a one-time Seattle starter who was cut early last year by Bum in Houston.

Secondary—One spot Phillips need not worry about is free safety, where Tommy Myers led the team in interceptions with five and tackles with 134. Ray Brown said he was retiring from his strong safety position, which would leave the spot open for Don Schwartz, who alternated with Brown last year. But Brown, an 11-year vet, was reconsidering retirement on Phillips' suggestion. Dave Waymer, the second-round draft pick a year ago, stepped in at one corner, although some say he's better suited for safety. Former CFLer James Marshall and third-year man Ricky Ray are the others who toiled at the corners last year while journeyman Mike Spivey signed on late in the season. Merkens might be a factor at safety.

SPECIAL TEAMS

One of Phillips' top priorities is finding out what's wrong with Russell Erxleben, whose career he followed closely in Texas. Erxleben started the year as a two-way kicker, then yielded the placekicking chores to former Lion Benny Ricardo after he missed three of his first five field goal tries. Erxleben had a so-so 39.3 punting average (with only three touchbacks), and has yet to display the kicking ability that made him a No. 1 draft pick in 1979. Ricardo wound up 10-for-17 on field goals, but just 3-for-9 from beyond 40 yards. Rogers and Mauti did the bulk of the returning a year ago, and both were satisfactory on kickoffs. But as a team the Saints returned only 22 punts, which says something about the problems on defense.



THE DRAFT

After taking Rogers, who gained better than 1700 yards to lead the nation at South Carolina a year ago, Phillips spent nine of his remaining 16 choices on his defense. He got a potential starter for each area with his next three picks: Nebraska defensive back Russell Gary (No. 2), Pitt linebacker Ricky Jackson (No. 2A), and Auburn University lineman Frankie Warren (No. 3).

Others on defense include Pitt noseguard Jerry Boyarsky (No. 5A), BYU linebacker Glen Redd (No. 6B), and defensive backs Johnnie Poe of Missouri (No. 6A) and Kevin Evans of Arkansas (No. 6A). Offensive help may be supplied by good hands tight end Hoby Brenner of Southern Cal (No. 3A), guards Louis Outbre of Oklahoma (No. 5) and Nat Hudson of Georgia (No. 6), and speedy receiver-returner Kevin Williams of Southern Cal (No. 7).

DRAFT CHOICES

Round	Name	Number Selected	Pos.	College
1.	George Rogers	1	RB	South Carolina
2.	Russell Gary	29	DB	Nebraska
2.	(From San Diego)			
3.	Ricky Jackson	51	LB	Pittsburgh
3.	Frank Warren	57	DE	Auburn
3.	(From Minnesota)			
4.	Hoby Brenner	71	TE	Southern California
4.	(Choice to Miami)			
5.	Louis Outbre	112	GT	Oklahoma
5.	(From Minnesota)			
6.	Jerry Boyarsky	128	DT	Pittsburgh
6.	Nat Hudson	139	DG	Georgia
6.	(From Tampa Bay)			
7.	Johnny Poe	144	DB	Missouri
6.	(From Oakland)			
7.	Glen Redd	165	LB	Brigham Young
7.	Kevin Williams	167	WR	Southern California
8.	(Choice to New England)			
8.	(From Buffalo)			
8.	Bane Gladys	214	LB	Penn State
8.	(From San Diego)			
9.	Kevin Evans	215	DB	Arkansas
9.	Toussaint Tyler	222	RB	Washington
10.	Moise Gajan	248	RB	Louisiana State
11.	Lester Mickens	277	WR	Kansas
12.	Jim Wilke	305	DT	San Diego State



UPDATE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Late shuffling of players on the preseason rosters often comes just at deadline time. It isn't always possible for us to go back into the book and re-arrange the rosters to include all the changes. Therefore, this last-minute page has been inserted to bring you as up-to-date as possible on player changes.



AMERICAN CONFERENCE ROSTER CHANGES

Team	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr. in NFL	Birthdate	College	Disposition
Baltimore		HUNT, Ron	OT	6-7	275	4	1/27/55	Oregon	Activated
Baltimore	75	KUNZ, George							Dropped
Baltimore		McCREARY, Loaird	TE	6-5	235	5	3/15/53	Tennessee State	Activated
Baltimore	45	SIANI, Mike							Dropped
Buffalo	8	EVANS, Johnny	P-QB	6-2	197	4	2/18/56	No. Carolina St.	From Cleveland
Buffalo	21	GREENE, Doug							Dropped
Cincinnati	36	HEATH, Jo Jo							Dropped
Cleveland	8	EVANS, Johnny							To Buffalo
Cleveland	86	FULTON, Dan	WR	6-1	186	2	9/2/56	Nebraska-Omaha	Activated
Cleveland	78	HARDAWAY, Milton							To Green Bay
Denver		HIPPI, I. M.	RB	5-11	202	2	2/15/56	Nebraska	Activated
Denver		REED, Tony	RB	5-10	197	5	3/30/55	Colorado	From Kansas City
Denver		STEELE, Robert	WR	6-4	202	2	8/2/56	No. Alabama	Activated
Houston	84	JOHNSON, Billy	WR	6-2					To Montreal
Kansas City	62	KIRCHBAUM, Kelly	LB		240	1	6/14/57	Kentucky	Activated
Kansas City	45	TALTON, Ken	RB	6-0	205	2	6/25/56	Cornell	Activated
Miami		JOHNSON, Ken	RB						Dropped
Miami	29	MORIARTY, Pat	RB	6-0	195	2	5/19/55	Georgia Tech	Activated
Miami	17	WOODS, Pete	QB	6-4	215	1	11/29/55	Missouri	Activated
New England	61	ADAMS, Sam	G						To New Orleans
Oakland	17	GROSSART, Kyle	QB	6-4	215	1	1/19/55	Oregon State	Activated
San Diego	48	DOVE, Jerome	CB						Dropped
San Diego	32	PERRY, Scott	CB						Dropped
San Diego		WILLIAMS, Jeff	G-T	6-4	260	4	4/15/55	Rhode Island	From Washington
San Diego		WRIGHT, Nate	CB	5-11	180	14	12/21/47	San Diego State	Activated
San Diego	99	YOUNG, Wilbur	DE						To Washington
Seattle	8	WEST, Jeff	P	6-2	220	6	4/6/53	Cincinnati	Activated

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

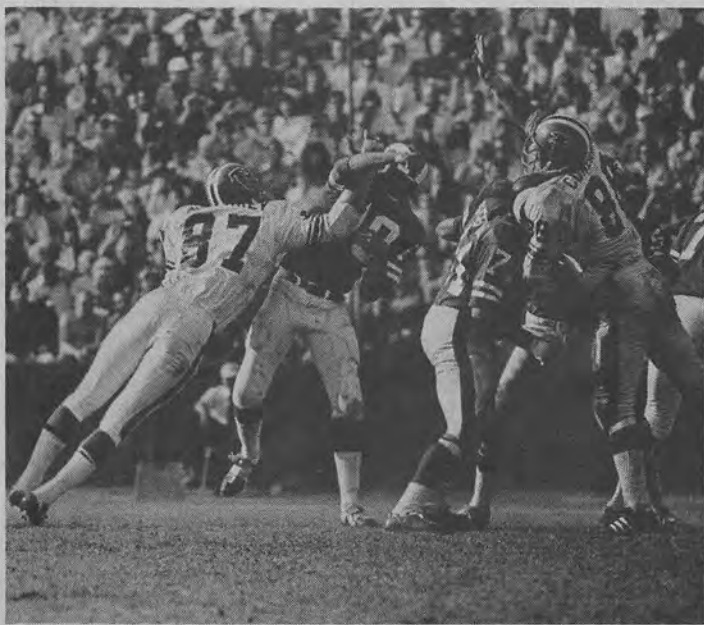
Atlanta	32	EASTERLING, Ray	S						Retired—injury
Chicago	20	CHILDS, Jimmy	WR	6-2	195	3	8/9/56	Cal Poly-S.L.O.	Activated
Green Bay	11	BEVERLY, David	P						Dropped
Green Bay	28	CORNELIUS, Charles	CB	5-9	178	5	7/27/52	Bethune-Cookman	From San Francisco
Green Bay	97	HARDAWAY, Milton	T	6-9	305	2	12/12/54	Oklahoma State	From Cleveland
Green Bay	55	HUNT, Mike	LB	6-3					Dropped
New Orleans	61	ADAMS, Sam	G	6-3	260	10	9/29/48	Prairie View A&M	From New England
New Orleans	27	BROWN, Ray	SS						Dropped
New Orleans	85	CHILDS, Henry	TE						To Los Angeles
New Orleans	86	DONOVAN, Tom	WR						Dropped
New Orleans	59	EVANS, Chuck	LB	6-3	235	2	12/19/56	Stanford	Activated
New York Giants	54	LLOYD, Dan	LB						Dropped—injury
San Francisco		CHOMA, John	G-C	6-6	261	1	2/9/55	Virginia	Activated
San Francisco	24	COLE, Kevin	RB	6-0	190	1	1/27/56	San Jose State	Activated
San Francisco	28	CORNELIUS, Charles	CB						To Green Bay
San Francisco		DeBERNARDI, Fred	P-PK	6-5	230	2	3/2/49	UTEP	Activated
San Francisco		GAINES, Spider	WR	6-3	190	1	4/14/57	Washington	Activated
San Francisco	29	HASLIP, Wilbert	RB	5-11	215	2	12/8/56	Hawaii	Activated
San Francisco		JOHNSON, Danny	LB	6-2	225	1	5/7/55	Tennessee State	Activated
San Francisco		MARTIN, Saladin	DB	6-1	180	1	1/17/56	San Diego State	Activated
San Francisco	43	MUCKER, Larry	WR	5-11	180	5	12/15/54	Arizona State	Activated
San Francisco		PARHAM, Gus	DT	6-6	260	1	9/19/55	San Jose State	Activated
San Francisco	41	RING, Bill	RB	5-10	215	1	12/13/56	Brigham Young	Activated
San Francisco		STONE, Charles	G	6-2	255	1	2/4/58	No. Carolina St.	Activated
San Francisco	75	VINCENT, Ted	DT						Dropped
San Francisco		WASHINGTON, Harry	WR	6-0	180	3	7/30/56	Colorado State	Activated
San Francisco		WHITLEY, Eddy	TE	6-3	230	1	2/12/58	Kansas State	Activated
San Francisco	29	WILLIAMS, Gerard	CB						Dropped
Tampa Bay	53	BONNESS, Rik	LB						Dropped
Tampa Bay	15	RAE, Mike	QB						Retired
Tampa Bay	46	REECE, Danny	S-CB						Retired
Washington	11	McQUILKEN, Kim	QB						Retired
Washington		METCALF, Terry	RB	5-10			9/24/51	Long Beach State	From Canada
Washington	25	WASHINGTON, Joe	RB	5-10	179	6	9/24/53	Oklahoma	From Baltimore
Washington	73	WILLIAMS, Jeff	G						To San Diego
Washington	99	YOUNG, Wilbur	DE	6-6	290	11	4/20/49	William Penn	From San Diego



HALL OF FAME GAME SCHEDULE

NFL owners have agreed upon a schedule through 1998 for participation in the Pro Football Hall of Fame game, played at the Hall site in Canton, Ohio, on the last Saturday in July or first Saturday in August each year.

1981—Cleveland vs. Atlanta
 1982—Baltimore vs. Minnesota
 1983—Pittsburgh vs. New Orleans
 1984—Seattle vs. Tampa Bay
 1985—Houston vs. New York Giants
 1986—Kansas City vs. Los Angeles
 1987—New England vs. St. Louis
 1988—Cincinnati vs. San Francisco
 1989—Buffalo vs. Washington
 1990—Denver vs. Chicago
 1991—Miami vs. Detroit
 1992—New York Jets vs. Philadelphia
 1993—Oakland vs. Green Bay
 1994—Cleveland vs. Dallas
 1995—San Diego vs. Atlanta
 1996—Baltimore vs. New Orleans
 1997—Seattle vs. Minnesota
 1998—Pittsburgh vs. Tampa Bay



THE GEORGE BLANDA FACTOR

Points For Experience

When the NFL's annual draft was held last April, a growing number of cable-TV subscribers around the nation saw the entire first day televised, and were subjected to a New York-oriented coverage because most of the writers and spectators interviewed were New Yorkers. Therefore, there was disproportionate discussion about how the Giants and Jets were making out in the selections.

Our maturity factor charts have indicated for several years that the New York teams have not been drafting well.

DEFINITION: The Maturity Factor is the average number of years of previous pro football experience per player on a team's active 45-man squad. We have kept the chart since 1965, updating it week to week during the season as changes are made on the roster. However, the charts in this publication always reflect the final week of the previous season. Through the years, the team with the higher maturity factor has defeated the less mature team well over 60 percent of the time, and in some seasons it has been as high as 70 percent. Our 16-year research indicates that a team with a high maturity factor is not always a big winner over the season, simply because there are other factors than maturity involved in winning. But the charts have shown that a team with a low maturity factor seldom is a contender and never wins a title.

When a team rarely hangs on to more than a handful of its players from one season to another, it is an indication that most of them are not good enough to hold their jobs against inexperienced newcomers, who, in turn, often lose their jobs for the same reason the next season. And so it has been with the Giants and the Jets.

Since the NFL-AFL merger, this is where the Jets have finished on the Maturity Factor charts and in the overall NFL won-lost standings:



New York Jets

Year	M.F.	Finish
1980	2.14 (26th)	4-12-0 (25th-T)
1979	1.82 (28th)	8-8-0 (16th-T)
1978	1.55 (28th)	8-8-0 (15th-T)
1977	2.16 (27th)	3-11-0 (24th-T)
1976	2.81 (24th)	3-11-0 (24th-T)
1975	3.12 (17th-T)	3-11-0 (24th-T)
1974	3.15 (13th)	7-7-0 (10th-T)
1973	3.28 (17th-T)	4-10-0 (21st-T)
1972	3.88 (14th)	7-7-0 (13th-T)
1971	3.43 (13th)	6-8-0 (14th-T)
1970	3.10 (16th)	4-10-0 (21st)

In the 11 years since coming into the NFL, the Jets have not finished better than .500 at any time. And 13th is their highest finish on the M.F. charts in any season. Drafting better talent, and keeping that talent around to mature, might be a step upward.

Giant fans were equally vocal about how their favorite team has been drafting, so let's chart the Giants Maturity Factor, also.

New York Giants

Year	M.F.	Finish
1980	1.82 (28th)	4-12-0 (25th-T)
1979	2.51 (22nd)	6-10-0 (21st-T)
1978	2.84 (20th)	6-10-0 (21st-T)
1977	2.40 (24th)	5-9-0 (19th-T)
1976	2.82 (22nd)	3-11-0 (24th-T)
1975	2.84 (19th-T)	5-9-0 (15th-T)
1974	2.98 (17th)	2-12-0 (27th-T)
1973	3.51 (11th)	2-11-1 (26th-T)
1972	3.38 (17th)	8-6-0 (10th-T)
1971	3.40 (14th)	4-10-0 (24th-T)
1970	3.83 (7th)	9-5-0 (8th)

In the same 11-year period, only twice have the Giants finished in the top half of the M.F. chart and only twice have they finished better than .500 in the won-lost column. And in recent years, there has been a steady decline in maturity on the team, reflecting less and less staying-power among Giant draftees.

Meanwhile, down the road about 90 miles, the Philadelphia Eagles have been working their way upward steadily in both columns. Draftees have been staying around longer and the coaching look has improved dramatically. Only when the Eagles faced more mature Oakland in Super Bowl XV did they suffer the jitters of being relatively younger.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE—3.43 (223-223-2)

AMERICAN
CONFERENCE—3.50
(119-105-0)

EASTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor
(3.29)

Actual Finish	
(40-40-0)	
New England.....	4.00
Baltimore.....	3.98
Buffalo.....	3.60
Miami.....	2.73
New York Jets.....	2.14

CENTRAL DIVISION

Maturity Factor
(3.83)

Actual Finish	
(37-27-0)	
Houston.....	4.49
Pittsburgh.....	4.40
Cleveland.....	3.98
Cincinnati.....	2.44

WESTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor
(3.44)

Actual Finish	
(42-38-0)	
San Diego.....	4.38
Oakland.....	4.31
Denver.....	3.69
Seattle.....	2.80
Kansas City.....	2.00

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE—3.36
(104-118-2)

EASTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor
(3.41)

Actual Finish	
(39-41-0)	
Washington.....	4.53
Dallas.....	4.00
Philadelphia.....	3.42
St. Louis.....	3.27
New York Giants.....	1.82

CENTRAL DIVISION

Maturity Factor
(3.40)

Actual Finish	
(35-43-2)	
Minnesota.....	4.24
Chicago.....	3.53
Detroit.....	3.27
Green Bay.....	3.00
Tampa Bay.....	2.96

WESTERN DIVISION

Maturity Factor
(3.24)

Actual Finish	
(30-34-0)	
Los Angeles.....	3.73
New Orleans.....	3.69
Atlanta.....	2.78
San Francisco.....	2.74
New Orleans.....	1-15-0

MATURITY FACTOR

BY TEAM—1980

1—Washington.....	4.53
* 2—Houston.....	4.49
3—Pittsburgh.....	4.40
* 4—San Diego.....	4.38
* 5—Oakland.....	4.31
* 6—Minnesota.....	4.24
* 7—Dallas.....	4.00
—New England.....	4.00
* 9—Cleveland.....	3.98
—Baltimore.....	3.98
*11—Los Angeles.....	3.73
12—Denver.....	3.69
—New Orleans.....	3.69
*14—Buffalo.....	3.60
15—Chicago.....	3.53
*16—Philadelphia.....	3.42
17—Detroit.....	3.27
—St. Louis.....	3.27
19—Green Bay.....	3.00
20—Tampa Bay.....	2.96
21—Seattle.....	2.80
*22—Atlanta.....	2.78
23—San Francisco.....	2.74
24—Miami.....	2.73
25—Cincinnati.....	2.44
26—New York Jets.....	2.14
27—Kansas City.....	2.00
28—New York Giants.....	1.82

* Made 1980 NFL playoffs



AFC Predictions

KUCNER'S 1981 AFC PREDICTIONS

EASTERN DIVISION

First—New England Patriots
Second—Buffalo Bills*
Third—Baltimore Colts
Fourth—Miami Dolphins
Fifth—New York Jets

CENTRAL DIVISION

First—Pittsburgh Steelers
Second—Cleveland Browns*
Third—Cincinnati Bengals
Fourth—Houston Oilers

WESTERN DIVISION

First—San Diego Chargers
Second—Kansas City Chiefs
Third—Oakland Raiders
Fourth—Denver Broncos
Fifth—Seattle Seahawks
*Wild card teams

AFC Wild Card Game

Cleveland 28, Buffalo 10

AFC Divisional Playoffs

San Diego 34, Cleveland 21
New England 20, Pittsburgh 13

AFC Championship Game

San Diego 31, New England 27

SUPER BOWL XVI

San Diego 27, Philadelphia 13

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

BY RICH KUCNER



No. 1" chant in preparation for a trip to the Super Bowl game in Pontiac, Michigan.

Pontiac, Michigan? The Super Bowl?

As I said, never before has there been a season such as this one.

Of the 14 teams in the AFC, only four had losing records last season. The rest were anywhere from 11-5 to 8-8... a field goal here, a missed tackle there... a dropped pass here, a fumble there... "Jeez, coach, we coulda been a contender" was the oft-heard off-season lament from one end of the conference to the other.

Some people are kidding themselves.

Some of the teams weren't as good as they seemed in 1980, getting to the top with a little help from Lady Luck. And others weren't as bad as they seemed, getting an unfair handicap from the broken bones and crushed cartilage department.

It's those injuries that confound even the most clever of prognosticators; they're the one vital part of the formula that can't be predicted. Injuries to key personnel can take a team from the very top to the very bottom in record time.

But if the impossible happened in 1981, if each team were equally affected by injuries, the standings at season's end would differ significantly from last year.

San Diego will probably be the only divisional champion that will return to its throne room, and Houston will dive from the penthouse to the poorhouse in record time.

Among other switches: Pittsburgh goes from third to first, Oakland from the winner's podium in the Super Bowl locker room to third place in the AFC Central when the decade of the '80s started.

No team will be watched as closely as the Pittsburgh Steelers, the team that terrorized the NFL in the 1970s but ducked down to third place in the AFC Central when the decade of the '80s started.

Are the Steelers finished? Has the inevitable clock, which works against every champion, turned against the Steelers, reducing them to also-rans?

Almost. The Steelers, who were aging in 1980, are old in 1981. But it probably won't be until 1982 that they grow too old. For them, this is the season for a last hurrah.

"Everyone will write us off," said Terry Bradshaw after the Steelers failed to qualify



for the playoffs, "and then we'll come back and blow them out."

No, Terry, not everyone is writing off the Steelers. Here's at least one vote for the guys in black to finish first in their division.

Elsewhere in the AFC Central, Cleveland will slip a bit to second place, Cincinnati will climb (finally) a bit to third, and Houston will thud to last place. Any organization foolish enough to fire an outstanding coach such as Bum Phillips is unlikely to end up anywhere but in the basement, Earl Campbell or no Earl Campbell.

Another team going in reverse is Oakland, the defending Super Bowl champ. Except for an ill-advised pass by Brian Sipe on a cold, windy day, the Raiders would have been no big deal in 1980. Lightning won't strike in the same place twice, and the Raiders will slip to third place in the AFC West, behind the San Diego Bombardiers and a Kansas City team that could prove to be the surprise of 1981. The Chiefs had an 8-4 record after a slow start last year, and finally could be ready to make a move in the standings. Denver and Seattle have the look of also-rans.

New England appears to be the best team in the AFC East. But the Pats appear to be the best every year, and they never really get anywhere. If the Super Bowl were played in mid-October, the Pats would win every year. But they've been sprinters in a long distance race, and when the season enters its late stages,

the Pats always fade.

But even slow learners manage to learn eventually, and maybe this finally will be the year of New England's enlightenment.

There was talk of a dynasty in Buffalo when Chuck Knox dragged the Bills into first place last season, but that seems overly optimistic. The Bills and their "hold 'em" offense have the look of a second-place outfit.

Baltimore, which is carried by its quarterback, and Miami, which must carry its quarterback, will fight it out for third place. The young Jets (aren't the Jets always young?) can be found in their usual haunts.

Pittsburgh, New England, and San Diego draw the votes as the teams most likely to succeed as divisional champs, with Cleveland and Buffalo the best of the also-rans, qualifying for the playoffs.

The Steelers, who had always managed to turn it on in the second half of the season after going 4-4 to the midway mark, failed last year. This time they'll finish first but will fade quickly from the playoffs, as will the wild card Bills and Browns. That leaves the high-flying offenses, San Diego and New England, to fight it out for the AFC championship.

Neither of them has an enviable record in post-season play, but figure the Chargers to survive a wild shoot-out for the title.

After that, the NFC should be easy.

Sorry, Vinny. But that's the way it is every year. Right? San Diego 27, Philadelphia 13.

1980 AFC FINAL STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	DP
*Buffalo.....	11	5	0	.688	320	260
New England.....	10	6	0	.625	441	325
Miami.....	8	8	0	.500	266	305
Baltimore.....	7	9	0	.438	355	387
N.Y. Jets.....	4	12	0	.250	302	395

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	DP
*Cleveland.....	11	5	0	.688	357	310
#Houston.....	11	5	0	.688	295	251
Pittsburgh.....	9	7	0	.563	352	313
*Cincinnati.....	6	10	0	.375	244	312

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	DP
*San Diego.....	11	5	0	.688	418	327
#Oakland.....	11	5	0	.688	364	306
Kansas City.....	8	8	0	.500	319	336
Denver.....	8	8	0	.500	310	323
Seattle.....	4	12	0	.250	291	408

*Division Champion

#Wild Card for Playoffs

AFC Wild Card Game

Oakland 27, Houston 7

AFC Divisional Playoffs

San Diego 24, Buffalo 14

Oakland 14, Cleveland 12

AFC Championship Game

Oakland 34, San Diego 27

Super Bowl XV

Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10

Pro Bowl

NFC 21, AFC 7



NFC Predictions

DITRANI'S 1981 NFC PREDICTIONS

EASTERN DIVISION

First—Philadelphia Eagles
Second—Dallas Cowboys*
Third—New York Giants
Fourth—Washington Redskins
Fifth—St. Louis Cardinals

CENTRAL DIVISION

First—Detroit Lions
Second—Chicago Bears*
Third—Minnesota Vikings
Fourth—Tampa Bay Bucs
Fifth—Green Bay Packers

WESTERN DIVISION

First—Atlanta Falcons
Second—San Francisco 49ers
Third—Los Angeles Rams
Fourth—New Orleans Saints
*Wild card teams

NFC Wild Card Game

Dallas 28, Chicago 17

NFC Divisional Playoffs

Philadelphia 24, Atlanta 21 (OT)
Dallas 27, Detroit 20

NFC Championship Game

Philadelphia 20, Dallas 10

SUPER BOWL XVI

Philadelphia 24, San Diego 16

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

By Vin DiTrani



First, the good news. A year ago, in this section, you read how the Dallas Cowboys would defeat the Los Angeles Rams and eventually reach the NFC Championship Game, where they would lose to Philadelphia. The Eagles then would move on to the Super Bowl where they would lose to the AFC representative by 21 points.

Now the bad news.

A year ago, in this section, you read how the New Orleans Saints would win the NFC West, while Atlanta would struggle to beat out San Francisco for third place. The Bears would be victorious in the NFC Central while the Vikings would wind up fourth.

Well, you win some and you lose some. That's what makes this game interesting. After all, if what you read in this section was unfailing, why bother playing the season?

So, despite the predictions contained in this year's segment, the NFL indeed will go on with the 1981 season as planned.

And again it looks as if the NFC will belong to the Eagles, who a year ago sprung a rock-hard defense and a good-enough offense on the rest of the league to make their first championship game appearance since 1960. While some of the Eagles have reached the stage

where they might not be able to afford being a year older, a lot of the Philly players are at the stage where they can benefit from being a year wiser.

Thus the Eagles will triumph in the NFC East, again out-distancing the Cowboys by the narrowest of tie-breakers, perhaps by point-differential or at the very most, conference records.

Each team in the league recently has had a year which surprised its fans, giving them a season of unexpected success. Each team, that is, except the Giants. So this could be the year the once-mighty Men of Mara excite their loyal backers by upsetting the Eagles on opening day, and going onto a third-place finish in the NFC East.

Washington, reorganizing under Joe Gibbs, and the Cards, bolstered by a good draft, both will be improved and won't finish too far behind the amazing Giants.

Things will be close in that less-than-powerful NFC Central again. But this time two teams will stamp themselves as superior to the rest. The Lions, a second year removed from having the first pick in the draft, will win by a game or so over the Chicago Bears. Chicago will do well enough, however, to join the Cowboys as a wild card team in the playoffs.

Minnesota, which sneaked into the championship in 1980, might equal its 9-7 mark of a year ago. But this time it won't mean anything better than third place. The Bucs, just 45 heartbeats away from the Super Bowl two years ago, will continue their stay in mediocri-



ty after experiencing the sublime and the ridiculous. And the Packers? Well, they'll show up every week.

Out west, this year's longshot is the 49ers. With rookie Ronnie Lott intercepting a dozen passes, San Francisco's defense will improve enough to lift the Niners to second place behind Atlanta, which will win the division in a walk. The 49ers' record won't be good enough in 1981 to get them a wild-card spot, however.

All those problems and Vince Ferragamo's exit will take their toll upon the Rams, who'll finish third. The Saints will be improved with Bum Phillips and George Rogers, and won't be far off the California clubs marks. But its still fourth place for New Orleans.

Dallas will eliminate the Bears in the wild card game, then go on to end the Lions hopes of playing the Super Bowl at home with a playoff win over Detroit. The Eagles, meanwhile, will have a classic playoff joust with the Falcons before winning by a field goal in overtime, maybe double overtime.

So for the second straight year Dallas and the Eagles will meet for the title in Philly. This time the weather, on order from Tex Schramm, will be balmy, temperatures in the 30s, winds not gusting over 30. Still, the Eagles will prevail.

Then, two weeks later, Dick Vermeil's building program will climax with a solid win over the Chargers, 24-16, in front of the 25,000 or so fans who have managed to reach the Pontiac Silverdome in a raging blizzard.

1980 NFC FINAL STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	DP
*Philadelphia.....	12	4	0	.750	384	222
#Dallas.....	12	4	0	.750	454	311
Washington.....	6	10	0	.375	261	293
St. Louis.....	5	11	0	.313	299	350
N.Y. Giants.....	4	12	0	.250	249	425

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	DP
*Minnesota.....	9	7	0	.563	317	308
Detroit.....	9	7	0	.563	334	272
Chicago.....	7	9	0	.438	304	264
Tampa Bay.....	5	10	1	.344	271	341
Green Bay.....	5	10	1	.344	231	371

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	DP
*Atlanta.....	12	4	0	.750	405	272
#Los Angeles.....	11	5	0	.688	424	289
San Francisco.....	6	10	0	.375	320	415
New Orleans.....	1	15	0	.063	291	487

* Division Champion

Wild Card for Playoffs

NFC Wild Card Game

Dallas 34, Los Angeles 13

NFC Divisional Playoffs

Philadelphia 31, Minnesota 16

Dallas 30, Atlanta 27

NFC Championship Game

Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7

Super Bowl XV

Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10

Pro Bowl

NFC 21, AFC 7

OFFICIALS



While we're into the section that has to do with predictions, we are reminded that many NFL buffs like to hold friendly competitions predicting how the NFL's college draft will go, and they like to join our friendly game of calling, in advance of the season, the 10 teams to make the playoffs.

It's sort of like looking at the 10 finalists in the Miss America contest and having a living room competition to see who can name which of the 10 will be chosen.

We like to watch the game officials closely throughout the season to see if we can predict, at the end of the regular schedule, which officials will be selected for the Super Bowl. It isn't easy. It's even tougher to predict them before the season begins, but we'll give it a whirl. One right out of seven might be fortunate, for each of the seven positions stands at pure 14-1 or 15-1 odds. So, we'll guess three for each spot, and that should improve the odds of getting at least one right.

In order of likelihood, we'll predict, for the Super Bowl:

Referee—(1) Dick Jorgensen (2) Jim Tunney (3) Red Cashion

Umpire—(1) Pat Harder (2) Lou Palazzi (3) Gordon Wells

Back Judge—(1) Bill Swanson (2) Ray Douglas (3) Don Wedge

Side Judge—(1) Royal Cathcart (2) Grover Klemmer (3) Gil Mace

Field Judge—(1) Bill O'Brien (2) Don Orr (3) Armen Terzian

Line Judge—(1) Walt Peters (2) Jack Fette (3) Bill Reynolds

Head Linesman—(1) Ray Dodez (2) Leo Miles (3) Dave Hawk

Art McNally, if I get four right, from all these choices, will you send me a free three-year subscription to "Officials Illustrated?"

REFEREES

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
3	TUNNEY, Jim	Occidental	22	President, motivation company; professional speaker
4	HAGGERTY, Pat	Colorado State College	17	Teacher and coach
6	JORGENSEN, Dick	Wisconsin	14	President, commercial bank
7	SILVA, Fred	San Jose State	15	Director of chain sales
8	CASHION, Red	Texas A&M	10	Chairman of the board, insurance company
9	MARKBREIT, Jerry	Illinois	6	Sales manager
10	McELWEE, Bob	U.S. Naval Academy	6	Construction engineer
11	WYANT, Fred	West Virginia	16	Regional insurance sales director
12	DREITH, Ben	Colorado State University	22	Teacher-counselor
14	BARTH, Gene	St. Louis	11	President, oil company
15	FREDERIC, Bob	Colorado	14	President, printing and lithography company
17	SEEMAN, Jerry	Winona State	7	School administrator
18	HEBERLING, Chuck	Washington and Jefferson	17	Executive administrator, state high school athletics
19	DOOLEY, Tom	VMI	4	General contractor
20	Mc CARTER, Gordon	Western Reserve	15	Industrial sales

UMPIRES

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
3	PALAZZI, Lou	Penn State	30	Landscape architect (Former NFL player)
4	KECK, John	Cornell College	10	Petroleum and auto parts distributor
5	BOYLSTON, Bob	Alabama	4	Manufacturer's representative
7	CONWAY, Al	Army	13	Polyester product manager
8	HARDER, Pat	Wisconsin	16	Exec. VP, auto leasing company (Former NFL player)
9	MOSS, Dave	Dartmouth	2	Insurance
10	MYERS, Tom	San Jose State	3	Owner, auto leasing company
11	WELLS, Gordon	Occidental	10	College professor, physical education
12	HAMILTON, Dave	Utah	7	Hospital administrator
14	DEMMAS, Art	Vanderbilt	14	Investments and financial planning, insurance company
15	MORCROFT, Ralph	Ohio State	21	Baseball operations director
17	FIFFICK, Ed	Marquette	3	Podiatric physician
19	HENSLEY, Tommy	Tennessee	15	Transportation sales representative
20	SINKOVITZ, Frank	Duke	24	President, marketing company (Former NFL player)
22	BOTCHAN, Ron	Occidental	2	College professor

HEAD LINESMEN

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
3	MILES, Leo	Virginia State	13	University athletic director (Former NFL player)
6	MARION, Ed	Pennsylvania	22	Vice-president, pension marketing, insurance company
7	VETERI, Tony	None	21	Sales manager, consumer products
9	HAGERTY, Ligouri	Syracuse	6	Manager, sporting goods company
10	GIERKE, Terry	Portland State	1	Real estate broker
12	HAMER, Dale	California State (PA)	4	Accountant and analyst
14	FRANTZ, Ernie	None	1	Vice-president and manager, land title company
15	DODEZ, Ray	Wooster	14	Telephone company executive
16	JOHNSON, Jack	Pacific Lutheran	6	College co-ordinator, student programs
17	BERGMAN, Jerry	Duquesne	16	Transportation manager
18	TOLER, Burl	San Francisco	17	Director of adult and community education
20	GLOVER, Frank	Morris Brown	10	Assistant area superintendent
21	KRAGSETH, Norm	Northwestern	8	Chairman, physical education department
22	HAWK, Dave	Southern Methodist	10	Vice-president, manufacturing company
23	WILLIAMS, Dale	Cal State (Northridge)	2	Co-ordinator of athletic officials
25	SEMON, Sid	Southern California	4	Chairman, physical education department

LINE JUDGES

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
3	McLAUGHLIN, Bob	Xavier	4	Vice-president, sales
4	GOSIER, Wilson	Fort Valley State	2	Teacher co-ordinator
6	LEIMBACH, John	Missouri	1	School teacher
8	McKENZIE, Dick	Ashland	4	Independent insurance agent
9	FETTE, Jack	None	17	District sales manager, sporting goods company
11	REYNOLDS, Bill	West Chester State	7	Junior high school teacher and coach
14	EVERETT, John	Illinois	3	Assistant principal
15	GLASS, Bama	Colorado	3	Owner, consumer products
16	BEEKS, Bob	Lincoln	14	Police community relations officer
17	OREM, Dale	Louisville	2	Owner, sporting goods company
19	MARSHALL, Vern	Linfield College	6	Counseling co-ordinator
20	OSBORNE, Jim	Villanova	4	Sales marketing executive
22	SMITH, Boyce	Vanderbilt	1	President and general manager, steel company
24	PETERS, Walt	Indiana State	14	Insurance broker
25	GEREB, Neil	California	1	Supervisor, division of aircraft company



BACK JUDGES

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
4	TOMPKINS, Ben	Texas	11	Attorney
5	DOUGLAS, Ray	Baltimore	14	Traffic manager
7	KELLEHER, Tom	Holy Cross	22	President, marketing company
8	WEDGE, Don	Ohio Wesleyan	10	National sales manager
9	WILLIAMS, Banks	Houston	4	Vice-president and general sales manager, concrete company
10	ROSSER, Jimmy	Auburn	5	Personnel director
11	KNIGHT, Pat	Southern Methodist	9	General manager, lumber company (Former NFL player)
12	KEARNEY, Jim	Pennsylvania	4	Account manager
14	JURY, Al	San Bernardino Valley	4	State traffic officer
15	SANDERS, J. W.	Southern Illinois	2	Physical education professor
16	POOLE, Jim	San Diego State	7	College physical education professor
17	CLYMER, Roy	New Mexico State	2	Area manager, gas company
18	HANTAK, Dick	Southeast Missouri	4	Guidance counselor
20	SWANSON, Bill	Lake Forest	18	Manufacturer's representative
23	BAETZ, Paul	Heidelberg	4	Vice-president, marketing

SIDE JUDGES

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
3	JONES, Nate	Lewis and Clark	5	High school principal
4	WARD, Ed	Southern Methodist	4	Executive director, motor freight association
5	MACE, Gil	Westminster	8	National accounts manager
6	SPENCER, Willie	Prairie View	4	Central office administrator
7	QUINBY, William	Iowa State	4	Industrial relations director
8	KLEMMER, Grover	California	19	Department chairman and athletic director
9	LOOK, Dean	Michigan State	10	Vice-president, insurance company
14	MURPHY, Ron	Austin State	2	Manufacturer's representative
15	CREED, Richard	Louisville	4	Real estate management
16	CATHCART, Royal	California-Santa Barbara	11	Commercial real estate broker (Former NFL player)
18	DeSOUZA, Ron	Morgan State	2	Vice-president, student affairs
19	RICE, Bob	Denison	13	Teacher and coach
21	PARRY, Dave	Wabash	7	High school athletic director
22	DOUGLAS, Merrill	Utah	1	Deputy sheriff
24	GANDY, Duwayne	None	1	Regional manager, book company
25	JACOB, Vince	None	7	Wireman, special apparatus

FIELD JUDGES

No.	Name	College	Years in NFL	Occupation
3	DOLACK, Dick	Ferris State	16	Pharmacist
5	STANLEY, Bill	Redlands	8	College athletic director
6	HAKES, Don	Bradley	5	High school dean of students
7	GRAF, Fritz	Western Reserve	22	Area manager, medical and hospital equipment company
9	O'BRIEN, Bill	Indiana	15	University department chairman and professor
10	ORR, Don	Vanderbilt	11	Executive vice-president, machine company
11	TERZIAN, Armen	Southern California	21	Director of physical education
12	WORTMAN, Bob	Findlay	16	Insurance agent
14	VAUGHAN, Jack	Mississippi State	6	Real estate broker
15	FERGUSON, Dick	West Virginia	8	Commissioner of officials
16	MALLETTE, Pat	Nebraska	13	Real estate broker
18	LEWIS, Bob	None	6	Operations, air force base
19	MUSSER, Charley	North Carolina State	17	Vice-president, refining company
20	MERRIFIELD, Ed	Missouri	7	Sales manager
24	GRIER, Johnny	D.C. Teachers	1	Telephone company

Supervisor of Officials—Art McNally

Assistants—Jack Reader and Nick Skorich



Meanwhile, as the officials move through the regular season, there will be minor rules changes for 1981. At press time, the NFL was working out refinements, including:

■ No more "stickum" to help receivers and defenders to catch the ball. Lester Hayes is crying.

■ Clarification of the rule of possession of a pass reception at the sideline. Simple possession with both feet inbounds will be sufficient. Last year, a receiver had to be able to perform an act common to the game (?) before going out of bounds.

■ Chop blocks to be refined, in definition, and to be called against offensive linemen, in addition to tight ends and running backs.

■ Clipping above the waist in many instances to be changed from a 15-yard to a 10-yard penalty and called "illegal use of hands."

■ Last year's new fourth down fumble advancement rule to be altered to permit fourth down fumbles to be advanced on shotgun, punt, or place-kick attempts.

There's no change in the length of the scheduled season. It's still a long (for losers) or short (for winners) 16 weeks.

THANKS . . .

Among the officials who have retired since last season are three long-term zebs who have been particularly co-operative. To them we offer many thanks.

Back judge Stan Javie—30 years
Referee and field judge
Fred Swearingen—21 years
Referee Cal LePore—15 years

1981 NFL SCHEDULE

When jet travel became readily available some twenty years ago, some of the NFL's scheduling problems were eased. Until then, West Coast teams (Los Angeles and San Francisco) had to be scheduled carefully so that each would make just two trips to the East to play a total of six games. Each would play three games per trip between the long, slow, piston engine coast-to-coast trips.

The trips required about 17 days of clothing per traveler, plus complex logistical problems of housing, food, laundry, practice sites, local travel, meeting facilities, and, of importance to the family's peace of mind, for the player with time on his hands, things to do. There were special requirements for fast film processing, payroll disbursements, per diem problems, and the necessity of large numbers of film reels to help prepare for each of the road games.

The jet age has eliminated the need for remaining away from home base for more than a single game, though occasionally a coach will see that a quirk in the schedule suggests a two-game trip. Today, the normal road game schedule calls for a Friday or Saturday departure, returning after the game on Sunday night. Today's travel times have increased the number of flights in a season, but have decreased the hours per flight, a tremendous psychological advantage for a team which would get very restless if it had to spend more than four and a half or five hours aboard a plane shortly before or just after the tension of a game.

Since teams now almost always prefer to return home immediately after each game (even eastern teams which might visit the coast several times in a season), the schedule-makers can concentrate on the modern problems of stadium-sharing (with baseball, usually, in the early season, or with college football teams later) and a balance of home and road games.

According to today's thinking, three consecutive games on the road are too many. Yet, two years ago, two NFL teams each played four road games in a row and six others were away for three consecutive contests. Last year, only six played three in a row on the road, and none were away longer.

In 1981, 13 teams (7 NFC and 6 AFC) will draw three in a row on the road, but none will have to make it four.

As usual, Dallas has drawn the best Thanksgiving Day schedule, as the only one of the four teams playing that day which will not have to travel following the previous Sunday game. Playing a Thursday game is an advantage for whoever plays, but is more of an advantage to the non-travel participant.

Houston has the same break on the December 3rd Thursday game. The Oilers are at home the previous Sunday.

Again, San Diego may have a problem at season's end, and this time the negative potential is shared with Oakland. The two meet in a Monday night game after the season has ended for all other NFL teams. If either should emerge as a wild card, it would have one less day to prepare for the first playoff game the next week than would its opponent. Two years in a row the Chargers have assumed this risk in return for the privilege of subjecting itself to Howard and Company.



1981 NATIONALLY TELEVIEWED GAMES

(All games also carried on CBS Radio Network)

REGULAR SEASON

Monday, Sept. 7	San Diego at Cleveland (night, ABC)
Thursday, Sept. 10	Pitt. at Miami (night, ABC)
Monday, Sept. 14	Oakland at Minn. (night, ABC)
Thursday, Sept. 17	Phila. at Buffalo (night, ABC)
Monday, Sept. 21	Dallas at New England (night, ABC)
Monday, Sept. 28	L.A. at Chic. (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 5	Atlanta at Phila. (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 12	Miami at Buffalo (night, ABC)
Sunday, Oct. 18	L.A. at Dallas (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 19	Chic. at Detroit (night, ABC)
Monday, Oct. 26	Houston at Pitt. (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 2	Minn. at Denver (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 9	Buffalo at Dallas (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 16	San Diego at Seattle (night, ABC)
Monday, Nov. 23	Minn. at Atlanta (night, ABC)
Thursday, Nov. 26	(Thanksgiving) Kansas City at Detroit (day, NBC)
Monday, Nov. 30	Chic. at Dallas (day, CBS)
Thursday, Dec. 3	Cleveland at Houston (night, ABC)
Monday, Dec. 7	Pitt. at Oakland (night, ABC)
Saturday, Dec. 12	N.Y. Jets at Cleveland (day, NBC)
Monday, Dec. 14	Minn. at Detroit (day, CBS)
Monday, Dec. 14	Atlanta at L.A. (night, ABC)
Saturday, Dec. 19	Dallas at N.Y. Giants (day, CBS)
Monday, Dec. 21	Buffalo at Miami (day, NBC)
Monday, Dec. 21	Oakland at San Diego (night, ABC)

POSTSEASON

Sunday, Dec. 27	NFL First Round Playoffs (CBS and NBC)
Saturday, Jan. 2	AFC and NFC Div. Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 3	AFC and NFC Div. Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 10	AFC Championship Game (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 10	NFC Championship Game (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 24	Super Bowl XVI at Silverdome, Pontiac, Mich. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 31	AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Honolulu, Hawaii (ABC)

SUNDAY-THURSDAY NIGHT GAMES

(All times local; televised by ABC)

Thurs., Sept. 10	Pitt. at Miami	8:30
Thurs., Sept. 17	Phila. at Buffalo	8:30
Sun., Oct. 18	Los Angeles at Dallas	8:00
Thurs., Dec. 3	Cleveland at Houston	8:00

1981 AFC-NFC INTERCONFERENCE GAMES

(All times local)

Sept. 6	Houston at L.A.	1:00
	Miami at St. Louis	12:00
Sept. 13	Detroit at San Diego	1:00
	New England at Phila.	4:00
	Tampa Bay at Kansas City	12:00
Sept. 14	Oakland at Minn. (Monday night)	8:00
Sept. 17	Phila. at Buffalo (Thursday night)	8:30
Sept. 21	Dallas at New England (Monday night)	9:00
Sept. 27	Atlanta at Cleveland	1:00
	Oakland at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 4	Cleveland at L.A.	1:00
	Pitt. at New Orleans	1:00
Oct. 11	Detroit at Denver	2:00
	Minn. at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 18	New Orleans at Cleveland	1:00
	N.Y. Giants at Seattle	1:00
	Tampa Bay at Oakland	1:00
	Wash. at Miami	4:00
Oct. 25	Cincinnati at New Orleans	1:00
	Miami at Dallas	3:00
	New England at Wash.	1:00
	San Diego at Chic.	3:00
Nov. 1	N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants	1:00
	San Fran. at Pitt.	1:00
	Seattle at Green Bay	1:00
Nov. 2	Minn. at Denver (Monday night)	7:00
Nov. 8	Chic. at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 9	Buffalo at Dallas (Monday night)	8:00
Nov. 15	Baltimore at Phila.	1:00
	Buffalo at St. Louis	12:00
	Cleveland at San Fran.	1:00
	Denver at Tampa Bay	1:00
	L.A. at Cincinnati	1:00
	Pitt. at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 22	New Orleans at Houston	12:00
	St. Louis at Baltimore	2:00
Nov. 26	Kansas City at Detroit (Thursday)	12:30
Nov. 29	Atlanta at Houston	3:00
	L.A. at Pitt.	1:00
	St. Louis at New England	1:00
	Wash. at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 30	Phila. at Miami (Monday night)	9:00
Dec. 6	Dallas at Baltimore	2:00
	San Fran. at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 13	Baltimore at Wash.	1:00
	Chic. at Oakland	1:00
	Houston at San Fran.	1:00
	San Diego at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 20	Cincinnati at Atlanta	1:00
	Denver at Chic.	12:00
	Green Bay at N.Y. Jets	1:00
	Kansas City at Minn.	12:00

LEAGUE CALENDAR

1981 NFL SCHEDULES

(All times local)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 (First Weekend)

Minnesota at Tampa Bay 8:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Baltimore at New England 1:00
Dallas at Washington 1:00
Green Bay at Chicago 1:00
Houston at Los Angeles 1:00
Kansas City at Pittsburgh 1:00
Miami at St. Louis 12:00
New Orleans at Atlanta 1:00
New York Jets at Buffalo 4:00
Oakland at Denver 2:00
Philadelphia at New York Giants 1:00
San Francisco at Detroit 1:00
Seattle at Cincinnati 1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

San Diego at Cleveland 9:00

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 (Second Weekend)

Pittsburgh at Miami 8:30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Atlanta at Green Bay 12:00
Buffalo at Baltimore 2:00
Chicago at San Francisco 1:00
Cincinnati at New York Jets 4:00
Denver at Seattle 1:00
Detroit at San Diego 1:00
Houston at Cleveland 1:00
Los Angeles at New Orleans 12:00
New England at Philadelphia 4:00
New York Giants at Washington 1:00
St. Louis at Dallas 3:00
Tampa Bay at Kansas City 12:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Oakland at Minnesota 8:00

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 (Third Weekend)

Philadelphia at Buffalo 8:30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Baltimore at Denver 2:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati 1:00
Detroit at Minnesota 12:00
Green Bay at Los Angeles 1:00
Miami at Houston 12:00
New Orleans at New York Giants 4:00
New York Jets at Pittsburgh 1:00
San Diego at Kansas City 1:00
San Francisco at Atlanta 1:00
Seattle at Oakland 1:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago 1:00
Washington at St. Louis 12:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Dallas at New England 9:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 (Fourth Weekend)

Atlanta at Cleveland 1:00
Buffalo at Cincinnati 1:00
Houston at New York Jets 1:00
Kansas City at Seattle 1:00
Miami at Baltimore 2:00
Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milw. 1:00
New England at Pittsburgh 1:00
New Orleans at San Francisco 1:00
New York Giants at Dallas 3:00
Oakland at Detroit 1:00
St. Louis at Tampa Bay 4:00
San Diego at Denver 2:00
Washington at Philadelphia 1:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Los Angeles at Chicago 8:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 (Fifth Weekend)

Baltimore at Buffalo 1:00
Chicago at Minnesota 12:00
Cincinnati at Houston 1:00
Cleveland at Los Angeles 1:00
Dallas at St. Louis 12:00
Denver at Oakland 1:00
Detroit at Tampa Bay 4:00
Green Bay at New York Giants 1:00
Kansas City at New England 1:00
New York Jets at Miami 4:00
Pittsburgh at New Orleans 1:00
San Francisco at Washington 1:00
Seattle at San Diego 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Atlanta at Philadelphia 9:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 (Sixth Weekend)

Cincinnati at Baltimore 2:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh 1:00
Dallas at San Francisco 1:00

Detroit at Denver 2:00
Los Angeles at Atlanta 1:00
Minnesota at San Diego 1:00
New England at New York Jets 1:00
Oakland at Kansas City 1:00
Philadelphia at New Orleans 12:00
St. Louis at New York Giants 4:00
Seattle at Houston 1:00
Tampa Bay at Green Bay 1:00
Washington at Chicago 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Miami at Buffalo 9:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 (Seventh Weekend)

Buffalo at New York Jets 1:00
Denver at Kansas City 3:00
Houston at New England 1:00
Los Angeles at Dallas 8:00
New Orleans at Cleveland 1:00
New York Giants at Seattle 1:00
Philadelphia at Minnesota 12:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 1:00
St. Louis at Atlanta 1:00
San Diego at Baltimore 2:00
San Francisco vs. Green Bay at Milw. 12:00
Tampa Bay at Oakland 1:00
Washington at Miami 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Chicago at Detroit 9:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 (Eighth Weekend)

Baltimore at Cleveland 1:00
Cincinnati at New Orleans 1:00
Denver at Buffalo 1:00
Green Bay at Detroit 1:00
Kansas City at Oakland 1:00
Los Angeles at San Francisco 1:00
Miami at Dallas 3:00
Minnesota at St. Louis 12:00
New England at Washington 1:00
New York Giants at Atlanta 1:00
San Diego at Chicago 3:00
Seattle at New York Jets 4:00
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia 1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Houston at Pittsburgh 9:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 (Ninth Weekend)

Atlanta at New Orleans 12:00
Baltimore at Miami 1:00
Chicago at Tampa Bay 1:00
Cleveland at Buffalo 1:00
Dallas at Philadelphia 4:00
Detroit at Los Angeles 1:00
Houston at Cincinnati 1:00
Kansas City at San Diego 1:00
New England at Oakland 1:00
New York Jets at New York Giants 1:00
St. Louis at Washington 4:00
San Francisco at Pittsburgh 1:00
Seattle at Green Bay 1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Minnesota at Denver 7:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 (Tenth Weekend)

Atlanta at San Francisco 1:00
Chicago at Kansas City 1:00
Cincinnati at San Diego 1:00
Cleveland at Denver 2:00
Detroit at Washington 1:00
Miami at New England 1:00
New Orleans at Los Angeles 1:00
New York Giants vs. Green Bay at Milw. 12:00
New York Jets at Baltimore 4:00
Oakland at Houston 12:00
Philadelphia at St. Louis 12:00
Pittsburgh at Seattle 1:00
Tampa Bay at Minnesota 12:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Buffalo at Dallas 8:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 (Eleventh Weekend)

Baltimore at Philadelphia 1:00
Buffalo at St. Louis 12:00
Chicago at Green Bay 12:00
Cleveland at San Francisco 1:00
Dallas at Detroit 4:00
Denver at Tampa Bay 1:00
Houston at Kansas City 1:00
Los Angeles at Cincinnati 1:00
New Orleans at Minnesota 12:00
New York Jets at New England 1:00
Oakland at Miami 1:00
Pittsburgh at Atlanta 1:00

Washington at New York Giants 4:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

San Diego at Seattle 6:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 (Twelfth Weekend)

Denver at Cincinnati 1:00
Detroit at Chicago 12:00
Green Bay at Tampa Bay 1:00
Miami at New York Jets 4:00
New England at Buffalo 1:00
New Orleans at Houston 12:00
New York Giants at Philadelphia 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland 1:00
St. Louis at Baltimore 2:00
San Diego at Oakland 1:00
San Francisco at Los Angeles 1:00
Seattle at Kansas City 1:00
Washington at Dallas 3:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Minnesota at Atlanta 9:00

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 (Thirteenth Weekend)

Chicago at Dallas 3:00
Kansas City at Detroit 12:30

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Atlanta at Houston 3:00
Baltimore at New York Jets 1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
Denver at San Diego 1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota 12:00
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh 1:00
New York Giants at San Francisco 1:00
Oakland at Seattle 1:00
St. Louis at New England 1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans 1:00
Washington at Buffalo 1:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Philadelphia at Miami 9:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 (Fourteenth Weekend)

Cleveland at Houston 8:00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Atlanta at Tampa Bay 4:00
Buffalo at San Diego 1:00
Dallas at Baltimore 2:00
Detroit at Green Bay 12:00
Kansas City at Denver 2:00
Los Angeles at New York Giants 1:00
Minnesota at Chicago 12:00
New England at Miami 1:00
New Orleans at St. Louis 12:00
New York Jets at Seattle 1:00
Philadelphia at Washington 1:00
San Francisco at Cincinnati 1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Pittsburgh at Oakland 6:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 (Fifteenth Weekend)

Minnesota at Detroit 4:00
New York Jets at Cleveland 12:30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Baltimore at Washington 1:00
Buffalo at New England 1:00
Chicago at Oakland 1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 1:00
Green Bay at New Orleans 12:00
Houston at San Francisco 1:00
Miami at Kansas City 1:00
New York Giants at St. Louis 12:00
Philadelphia at Dallas 3:00
San Diego at Tampa Bay 1:00
Seattle at Denver 2:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Atlanta at Los Angeles 6:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 (Sixteenth Weekend)

Buffalo at Miami 4:00
Dallas at New York Giants 12:30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Cincinnati at Atlanta 1:00
Cleveland at Seattle 1:00
Denver at Chicago 12:00
Green Bay at New York Jets 1:00
Kansas City at Minnesota 12:00
New England at Baltimore 2:00
Pittsburgh at Houston 3:00
St. Louis at Philadelphia 1:00
San Francisco at New Orleans 1:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit 1:00
Washington at Los Angeles 1:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

Oakland at San Diego 6:00

TEAM SCHEDULE

(All times local)

BALTIMORE COLTS

Sept. 6	at New England	1:00
Sept. 13	at Buffalo	2:00
Sept. 20	at Denver	2:00
Sept. 27	at Miami	2:00
Oct. 4	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 11	at Cincinnati	2:00
Oct. 18	at San Diego	2:00
Oct. 25	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 1	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 8	at New York Jets	4:00
Nov. 15	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 22	at St. Louis	2:00
Nov. 29	at New York Jets	1:00
Dec. 6	at Dallas	2:00
Dec. 13	at Washington	1:00
Dec. 20	at New England	2:00

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 6	at Seattle	1:00
Sept. 13	at New York Jets	4:00
Sept. 20	at Cleveland	1:00
Sept. 27	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 4	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 11	at Baltimore	2:00
Oct. 18	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 25	at New Orleans	1:00
Nov. 1	at Houston	1:00
Nov. 8	at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 15	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 22	at Denver	1:00
Nov. 29	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 6	at San Francisco	1:00
Dec. 13	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 20	at Atlanta	1:00

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 6	at Oakland	2:00
Sept. 13	at Seattle	1:00
Sept. 20	at Baltimore	2:00
Sept. 27	at San Diego	2:00
Oct. 4	at Oakland	1:00
Oct. 11	at Detroit	2:00
Oct. 18	at Kansas City	3:00
Oct. 25	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 2	at Minnesota (Mon.)	7:00
Nov. 8	at Cleveland	2:00
Nov. 15	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 22	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 29	at San Diego	1:00
Dec. 6	at Kansas City	2:00
Dec. 13	at Seattle	2:00
Dec. 20	at Chicago	12:00

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 6	at New York Jets	4:00
Sept. 13	at Baltimore	2:00
Sept. 20	at Philadelphia (Thurs.)	8:30
Sept. 27	at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 4	at Baltimore	1:00
Oct. 12	at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 18	at New York Jets	1:00
Oct. 25	at Denver	1:00
Nov. 1	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 8	at Dallas (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 15	at St. Louis	12:00
Nov. 22	at New England	1:00
Nov. 29	at Washington	1:00
Dec. 6	at San Diego	1:00
Dec. 13	at New England	1:00
Dec. 19	at Miami (Sat.)	4:00

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 7	at San Diego (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 13	at Houston	1:00
Sept. 20	at Cincinnati	1:00
Sept. 27	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 4	at Los Angeles	1:00
Oct. 11	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 18	at New Orleans	1:00
Oct. 25	at Baltimore	1:00
Nov. 1	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 8	at Denver	2:00
Nov. 15	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 22	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 29	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 3	at Houston (Thurs.)	8:00
Dec. 12	at New York Jets (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 20	at Seattle	1:00

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 6	at Los Angeles	1:00
Sept. 13	at Cleveland	1:00
Sept. 20	at Miami	12:00
Sept. 27	at New York Jets	1:00
Oct. 4	at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 11	at Seattle	1:00
Oct. 18	at New England	1:00
Oct. 26	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 1	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 8	at Oakland	12:00
Nov. 15	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 22	at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 29	at Atlanta	3:00
Dec. 3	at Cleveland (Thurs.)	8:00
Dec. 13	at San Francisco	1:00
Dec. 20	at Pittsburgh	3:00

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 6	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sept. 13	at Tampa Bay	12:00
Sept. 20	at San Diego	1:00
Sept. 27	at Seattle	1:00
Oct. 4	at New England	1:00
Oct. 11	at Oakland	3:00
Oct. 18	at Denver	3:00
Oct. 25	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 1	at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 8	at Chicago	1:00
Nov. 15	at Houston	1:00
Nov. 22	at Seattle	1:00
Nov. 26	at Detroit (Thanks.)	12:00
Dec. 6	at Denver	2:00
Dec. 13	at Miami	1:00
Dec. 20	at Minnesota	12:00

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 6	at St. Louis	12:00
Sept. 10	at Pittsburgh (Thurs.)	8:30
Sept. 20	at Houston	12:00
Sept. 27	at Baltimore	2:00
Oct. 4	at New York Jets	4:00
Oct. 12	at Buffalo (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 18	at Washington	4:00
Oct. 25	at Dallas	3:00
Nov. 1	at Baltimore	1:00
Nov. 8	at New England	1:00
Nov. 15	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 22	at New York Jets	4:00
Nov. 30	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 6	at New England	1:00
Dec. 13	at Kansas City	1:00
Dec. 19	at Buffalo (Sat.)	4:00

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 6	at Buffalo	4:00
Sept. 13	at Cincinnati	4:00
Sept. 20	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sept. 27	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 4	at Miami	4:00
Oct. 11	at New England	1:00
Oct. 18	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 25	at Seattle	4:00
Nov. 1	at New York Giants	1:00
Nov. 8	at Baltimore	4:00
Nov. 15	at New England	1:00
Nov. 22	at Miami	4:00
Nov. 29	at Baltimore	1:00
Dec. 6	at Seattle	1:00
Dec. 12	at Cleveland (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 20	at Green Bay	1:00

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 6	at Kansas City	1:00
Sept. 10	at Miami (Thurs.)	8:30
Sept. 20	at New York Jets	1:00
Sept. 27	at New England	1:00
Oct. 4	at New Orleans	1:00
Oct. 11	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 18	at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 26	at Houston (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 1	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 8	at Seattle	1:00
Nov. 15	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 22	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 29	at Los Angeles	1:00
Dec. 7	at Oakland (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 13	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 20	at Houston	3:00

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 6	at Baltimore	1:00
Sept. 13	at Philadelphia	4:00
Sept. 21	at Dallas (Mon.)	9:00

Sept. 27	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct. 4	at Kansas City	1:00
Oct. 11	at New York Jets	1:00
Oct. 18	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 25	at Washington	1:00
Nov. 1	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 8	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 15	at New York Jets	1:00
Nov. 22	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 29	at St. Louis	1:00
Dec. 6	at Miami	1:00
Dec. 13	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 20	at Baltimore	2:00

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 6	at Denver	2:00
Sept. 14	at Minnesota (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 20	at Seattle	1:00
Sept. 27	at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 4	at Denver	1:00
Oct. 11	at Kansas City	3:00
Oct. 18	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct. 25	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 1	at New England	1:00
Nov. 8	at Houston	12:00
Nov. 15	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 22	at San Diego	1:00
Nov. 29	at Seattle	1:00
Dec. 7	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 13	at Chicago	1:00
Dec. 21	at San Diego (Mon.)	6:00

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 7	at Cleveland (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 13	at Detroit	1:00
Sept. 20	at Kansas City	1:00
Sept. 27	at Denver	2:00
Oct. 4	at Seattle	1:00
Oct. 11	at Minnesota	1:00
Oct. 18	at Baltimore	2:00
Oct. 25	at Chicago	3:00
Nov. 1	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 8	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 16	at Seattle (Mon.)	6:00
Nov. 22	at Oakland	1:00
Nov. 29	at Denver	1:00
Dec. 6	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 13	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 21	at Oakland (Mon.)	6:00

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 6	at Cincinnati	1:00
Sept. 13	at Denver	1:00
Sept. 20	at Oakland	1:00
Sept. 27	at Kansas City	1:00
Oct. 4	at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 11	at Houston	1:00
Oct. 18	at New York Giants	1:00
Oct. 25	at New York Jets	4:00
Nov. 1	at Green Bay	1:00
Nov. 8	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 16	at San Diego (Mon.)	6:00
Nov. 22	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 29	at Oakland	1:00
Dec. 6	at New York Jets	1:00
Dec. 13	at Denver	2:00
Dec. 20	at Cleveland	1:00

MONDAY NIGHT GAMES

(All times local; televised by ABC and broadcast by CBS Radio)

Sept. 7	San Diego at Cleveland	9:00
Sept. 14	Oakland at Minnesota	8:00
Sept. 21	Dallas at New England	9:00
Sept. 28	Los Angeles at Chicago	8:00
Oct. 5	Atlanta at Philadelphia	9:00
Oct. 12	Miami at Buffalo	9:00
Oct. 19	Chicago at Detroit	9:00
Oct. 26	Houston at Pittsburgh	9:00
Nov. 2	Minnesota at Denver	7:00
Nov. 9	Buffalo at Dallas	8:00
Nov. 16	San Diego at Seattle	6:00
Nov. 23	Minnesota at Atlanta	9:00
Nov. 30	Philadelphia at Miami	9:00
Dec. 7	Pittsburgh at Oakland	6:00
Dec. 14	Atlanta at Los Angeles	6:00
Dec. 21	Oakland at San Diego	6:00

TEAM SCHEDULE

(All times local)

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 6	at New Orleans	1:00
Sept. 13	at Green Bay	12:00
Sept. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Sept. 27	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 11	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Oct. 18	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Oct. 25	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Nov. 1	at New Orleans	12:00
Nov. 8	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 15	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Nov. 23	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 29	at Houston	3:00
Dec. 6	at Tampa Bay	4:00
Dec. 14	at Los Angeles (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 20	CINCINNATI	1:00

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 6	at Washington	1:00
Sept. 13	ST. LOUIS	3:00
Sept. 21	at New England (Mon.)	9:00
Sept. 27	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:00
Oct. 4	at St. Louis	12:00
Oct. 11	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 18	LOS ANGELES	8:00
Oct. 25	MIAMI	3:00
Nov. 1	at Philadelphia	4:00
Nov. 9	BUFFALO (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 15	at Detroit	4:00
Nov. 22	WASHINGTON	3:00
Nov. 26	CHICAGO (Thanks.)	3:00
Dec. 6	at Baltimore	2:00
Dec. 13	PHILADELPHIA	3:00
Dec. 19	at New York Giants (Sat.)	12:30

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 6	at Chicago	1:00
Sept. 13	ATLANTA	12:00
Sept. 20	at Los Angeles	1:00
Sept. 27	MINNESOTA (Milw.)	1:00
Oct. 4	at New York Giants	1:00
Oct. 11	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Oct. 18	SAN FRANCISCO (Milw.)	12:00
Oct. 25	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 1	SEATTLE	1:00
Nov. 8	NEW YORK GIANTS (Milw.)	12:00
Nov. 15	CHICAGO	12:00
Nov. 22	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 29	at Minnesota	12:00
Dec. 6	DETROIT	12:00
Dec. 13	at New Orleans	12:00
Dec. 20	at New York Jets	1:00

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 6	GREEN BAY	1:00
Sept. 13	at San Francisco	1:00
Sept. 20	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Sept. 28	LOS ANGELES (Mon.)	8:00
Oct. 4	at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 11	WASHINGTON	1:00
Oct. 19	at Detroit (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 25	SAN DIEGO	3:00
Nov. 1	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 8	at Kansas City	1:00
Nov. 15	at Green Bay	12:00
Nov. 22	DETROIT	12:00
Nov. 26	at Dallas (Thanks.)	3:00
Dec. 6	MINNESOTA	12:00
Dec. 13	at Oakland	1:00
Dec. 20	DENVER	12:00

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 6	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Sept. 13	at San Diego	1:00
Sept. 20	at Minnesota	12:00
Sept. 27	OAKLAND	1:00
Oct. 4	at Tampa Bay	4:00
Oct. 11	at Denver	2:00
Oct. 19	CHICAGO (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 25	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 1	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 8	at Washington	1:00
Nov. 15	DALLAS	4:00
Nov. 22	at Chicago	12:00
Nov. 26	KANSAS CITY (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec. 6	at Green Bay	12:00
Dec. 12	MINNESOTA (Sat.)	4:00
Dec. 20	TAMPA BAY	1:00

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 6	HOUSTON	1:00
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Sept. 13	at New Orleans	12:00
Sept. 20	GREEN BAY	1:00
Sept. 28	at Chicago (Mon.)	8:00
Oct. 4	CLEVELAND	1:00
Oct. 11	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 18	at Dallas	8:00
Oct. 25	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov. 1	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 8	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov. 15	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 22	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 29	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec. 6	at New York Giants	1:00
Dec. 14	ATLANTA (Mon.)	6:00
Dec. 20	WASHINGTON	1:00

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 5	at Tampa Bay (Sat.)	8:00
Sept. 14	OAKLAND (Mon.)	8:00
Sept. 20	DETROIT	12:00
Sept. 27	vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	1:00
Oct. 4	CHICAGO	12:00
Oct. 11	at San Diego	1:00
Oct. 18	PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Oct. 25	at St. Louis	12:00
Nov. 2	at Denver (Mon.)	7:00
Nov. 8	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Nov. 15	NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Nov. 23	at Atlanta (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 29	GREEN BAY	12:00
Dec. 6	at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 12	at Detroit (Sat.)	4:00
Dec. 20	KANSAS CITY	12:00

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 6	at Atlanta	1:00
Sept. 13	LOS ANGELES	12:00
Sept. 20	at New York Giants	4:00
Sept. 27	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct. 4	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Oct. 11	PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Oct. 18	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 25	CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov. 1	ATLANTA	12:00
Nov. 8	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 15	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 22	at Houston	12:00
Nov. 29	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Dec. 6	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 13	GREEN BAY	12:00
Dec. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 6	at New York Giants	1:00
Sept. 13	NEW ENGLAND	4:00
Sept. 17	at Buffalo (Thurs.)	8:30
Sept. 27	WASHINGTON	1:00
Oct. 5	ATLANTA (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 11	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 18	at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 25	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Nov. 1	DALLAS	4:00
Nov. 8	at St. Louis	12:00
Nov. 15	BALTIMORE	1:00
Nov. 22	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Nov. 30	at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Dec. 6	at Washington	1:00
Dec. 13	at Dallas	3:00
Dec. 20	ST. LOUIS	1:00

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 6	at Detroit	1:00
Sept. 13	CHICAGO	1:00
Sept. 20	at Atlanta	1:00
Sept. 27	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 4	at Washington	1:00
Oct. 11	DALLAS	1:00
Oct. 18	vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	12:00
Oct. 25	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Nov. 1	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov. 8	ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 15	CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov. 22	at Los Angeles	1:00
Nov. 29	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Dec. 6	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 13	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec. 20	at New Orleans	1:00

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 6	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Sept. 13	at Washington	1:00
Sept. 20	NEW ORLEANS	4:00
Sept. 27	at Dallas	3:00
Oct. 4	GREEN BAY	1:00



Oct. 11	ST. LOUIS	4:00
Oct. 18	at Seattle	1:00
Oct. 25	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 1	NEW YORK JETS	1:00
Nov. 8	vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	12:00
Nov. 15	WASHINGTON	4:00
Nov. 22	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 29	at San Francisco	1:00
Dec. 6	LOS ANGELES	1:00
Dec. 13	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 19	DALLAS (Sat.)	12:30

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Sept. 6	MIAMI	12:00
Sept. 13	at Dallas	3:00
Sept. 20	WASHINGTON	12:00
Sept. 27	at Tampa Bay	4:00
Oct. 4	DALLAS	12:00
Oct. 11	at New York Giants	4:00
Oct. 18	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 25	MINNESOTA	12:00
Nov. 1	at Washington	4:00
Nov. 8	PHILADELPHIA	12:00
Nov. 15	BUFFALO	12:00
Nov. 22	at Baltimore	2:00
Nov. 29	at New England	1:00
Dec. 6	NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Dec. 13	NEW YORK GIANTS	12:00
Dec. 20	at Philadelphia	1:00

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS

Sept. 5	MINNESOTA (Sat.)	8:00
Sept. 13	at Kansas City	12:00
Sept. 20	at Chicago	1:00
Sept. 27	ST. LOUIS	4:00
Oct. 4	DETROIT	4:00
Oct. 11	at Green Bay	1:00
Oct. 18	at Oakland	1:00
Oct. 25	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 1	CHICAGO	1:00
Nov. 8	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 15	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 22	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 29	at New Orleans	1:00
Dec. 6	ATLANTA	4:00
Dec. 13	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Dec. 20	at Detroit	1:00

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 6	DALLAS	1:00
Sept. 13	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00
Sept. 20	at St. Louis	12:00
Sept. 27	at Philadelphia	1:00
Oct. 4	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 11	at Chicago	1:00
Oct. 18	at Miami	4:00
Oct. 25	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 1	ST. LOUIS	4:00
Nov. 8	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 15	at New York Giants	4:00
Nov. 22	at Dallas	3:00
Nov. 29	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 6	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Dec. 13	BALTIMORE	1:00
Dec. 20	at Los Angeles	1:00

EASY-TOUGH SCHEDULE CHARTS



The physical problems of the schedule—dates and travel—have been considered on the previous page. Now, let's look at the difficulty of the schedule from the strength of opposition.

In the charts below, 1981's findings contain an unusual situation. In the chart on the left, showing the "after-the-fact" easy/tough schedule for 1980, all the 1980 playoff teams are in the top 14 positions. Likewise, in the right hand chart, showing the projected 1981 easy-tough schedule, all ten 1980 playoff teams are in the top 16 positions.

At first glance, that might not seem to be unusual. Surely, if a team wins a lot of games, the opposition would have a poorer result, seeming to doubly reinforce the premise that the good teams have it easy. We established the easy/tough schedule charts many seasons ago, and have

used them here for ten years. A check of charts from recent years shows that in both the "after-the-fact" and "projection" versions, the playoff teams usually are well-scattered from the easy (top) to the tough (bottom) ends of the list.

Not so this time. A year ago, the chart projected that Detroit would have the second easiest schedule in the NFL in 1980. The Lions actually played the easiest schedule. And the next seven easiest spots belonged to seven of the ten 1980 playoff teams.

Green Bay, on paper, has by far the easiest schedule in 1981. The Giants, Jets, and Lions also are near the easy end of the list. Otherwise, eight of the 12 easiest positions belong to 1980 playoff teams.

The NFL has gone to great lengths to neutralize the easy/tough aspects of the yearly schedule, but the system still has its flaws. For example, in 1980 Green Bay and Tampa finished in an exact tie in the NFC-Central standings. The tie-breaker rules give Green Bay by far the easiest schedule for '81. Tampa Bay is 14th on the list—right in the middle. Had the tie-breaker gone the other way, their schedules would have been reversed.

For all the advantages in the various facets of scheduling, the payoff still belongs to the team that dominates the season statistics, necessarily including the scoring marks. ■

THE NFL'S EASY/TOUGH 1980 SCHEDULE

Rated By the Total 1980 Won/Lost Marks
of Each Team's 1980 Opponents

	Opp. W-L-T	Opp. Pct.	A	B
1-Detroit	107-145-4	.426	4	5
2-Los Angeles	111-143-2	.438	4	7
3-Dallas	115-139-2	.453	5	6
4-Atlanta	117-139-0	.457	5	8
5-Philadelphia	117-139-0	.457	6	7
6-Cleveland	119-135-2	.469	3	8
Houston	119-135-2	.469	3	8
8-Minnesota	120-132-4	.477	4	9
9-San Francisco	121-133-2	.477	6	9
10-New England	124-132-0	.484	6	9
11-Buffalo	125-131-0	.488	4	9
12-Chicago	124-128-4	.492	6	9
13-Washington	129-127-0	.504	8	9
14-Oakland	130-126-0	.508	5	11
San Diego	130-126-0	.508	5	11
16-Green Bay	130-124-2	.512	6	9
Tampa Bay	130-124-2	.512	6	9
18-Miami	131-125-0	.512	6	9
St. Louis	131-125-0	.512	6	9
20-New York Giants	131-123-2	.516	7	8
21-Baltimore	133-123-0	.520	4	12
22-Kansas City	133-123-0	.520	6	10
23-New York Jets	136-120-0	.531	6	11
24-Denver	138-118-0	.539	8	11
25-Pittsburgh	138-116-2	.543	8	10
26-New Orleans	139-117-0	.543	7	10
27-Cincinnati	144-110-2	.566	8	12
28-Seattle	146-110-0	.570	8	13

3568-3568-32 .500 160 256

A-Games played in 1980 against teams which made the 1980 playoffs.

B-Games played in 1980 against teams which had a .500 or better won/lost percentage in 1980.

THE NFL'S EASY/TOUGH 1981 SCHEDULE

Rated By the Total 1980 Won/Lost Marks
of Each Team's 1981 Opponents

	Opp. W-L-T	Opp. Pct.	A	B
1-Green Bay	106-148-2	.418	4	6
2-Atlanta	113-141-2	.445	6	7
3-Philadelphia	117-138-1	.459	5	7
4-Los Angeles	118-137-1	.463	5	7
5-New York Giants	118-136-2	.465	6	6
6-Minnesota	120-132-4	.476	4	8
7-Dallas	123-133-0	.481	4	7
8-New York Jets	126-129-1	.494	4	9
9-Detroit	125-127-4	.496	6	8
10-Houston	127-129-0	.496	5	10
11-Cleveland	127-129-0	.496	6	9
12-San Diego	127-128-1	.498	5	10
13-San Francisco	128-127-1	.502	7	9
14-Tampa Bay	128-126-2	.504	6	10
15-Buffalo	129-127-0	.504	4	9
16-Oakland	130-125-1	.510	4	12
17-Seattle	130-125-1	.510	6	11
18-Chicago	129-123-4	.512	6	10
19-Pittsburgh	131-125-0	.512	7	10
20-St. Louis	131-124-1	.514	7	9
21-Denver	133-122-1	.521	7	10
22-New England	134-122-0	.523	6	10
23-Washington	135-121-0	.527	6	9
24-New Orleans	135-119-2	.531	8	9
25-Kansas City	136-119-1	.533	6	12
26-Baltimore	137-119-0	.535	6	11
27-Cincinnati	137-119-0	.535	8	11
28-Miami	138-118-0	.539	6	10

3568-3568-32 .500 160 256

A-Games scheduled in 1981 against teams which made the 1980 playoffs.

B-Games scheduled in 1981 against teams which had a .500 or better won/lost percentage in 1980.



OFFICIAL STATISTICS 1980

AFC - INDIVIDUALS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	373	1934	5.2	t55	13
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	306	1185	3.9	48	11
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	249	1034	4.2	t56	6
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	222	838	3.8	34	5
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.-S.D. ...	175	827	4.7	53	6
Ferguson, Vagas, N.E.	211	818	3.9	44	2
Dickey, Curtis, Balt.	176	800	4.5	t51	11
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	208	789	3.8	26	4
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	200	787	3.9	t22	9
King, Kenny, Oak.	172	761	4.4	t89	4
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	186	747	4.0	t57	6
Alexander, Charles, Cin. ...	169	702	4.2	37	2
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	206	693	3.4	25	3
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	187	671	3.6	65	2
Jodat, Jim, Sea.	155	632	4.1	26	5
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J. ...	156	567	3.6	15	6
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	153	559	3.7	t34	3
Washington, Joe, Balt.	144	502	3.5	17	1
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	118	484	4.1	18	3
Jensen, Jim, Den.	101	476	4.7	32	2
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	106	470	4.4	20	4
Preston, Dave, Den.	111	385	3.5	19	4
Cappelletti, John, S.D. ...	101	364	3.6	46	5
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	97	359	3.7	46	3
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	115	355	3.1	18	6
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	100	344	3.4	22	3
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	78	340	4.4	19	1
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	49	330	6.7	t31	5
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	60	327	5.5	18	1
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt. ...	78	325	4.2	28	3
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	59	299	5.1	23	0
Whittington, Arthur, Oak. ...	91	299	3.3	t42	3
White, Charles, Clev.	86	279	3.2	16	5
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	60	274	4.6	t38	4
Belton, Horace, K.C.	68	273	4.0	14	2
Franklin, Cleveland, Balt. ...	83	264	3.2	21	2
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	85	260	3.1	14	0
Williams, Clarence, S.D. ...	97	258	2.7	13	3
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	66	257	3.9	15	1
McCutcheon, Lawrence, Den-Sea	52	254	4.9	32	3
Robiskie, Terry, Mia.	78	250	3.2	36	2
Hadnot, James, K.C.	76	244	3.2	11	2
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	63	226	3.6	15	4
Lytle, Rob, Den.	57	223	3.9	35	1
Leaks, Roosevelt, Buff. ...	67	219	3.3	15	2
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	44	214	4.9	25	1
Woodley, David, Mia.	55	214	3.9	17	3
Howell, Steve, Mia.	60	206	3.4	23	1
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	60	202	3.4	20	0
Bennett, Woody, N.Y.J.-Mia.	46	200	4.3	19	0
Sims, Marvin, Balt.	54	186	3.4	13	2
Reed, Tony, K.C.	68	180	2.6	24	0
Jones, Bert, Balt.	27	175	6.5	19	2
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	36	174	4.8	15	0
Plunkett, Jim, Oak.	28	141	5.0	17	2
Miller, Cleo, Clev.	28	139	5.0	50	3
McCauley, Don, Balt.	35	133	3.8	12	1
Davis, Russell, Pitt.	33	132	4.0	12	1
Turner, Deacon, Cin.	30	130	4.3	24	0
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	38	127	3.3	14	1
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	45	126	2.8	22	0
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	16	122	7.6	20	0
Morgado, Arnold, K.C.	47	120	2.6	11	4
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	25	118	4.7	25	1
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	40	117	2.9	19	0
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	30	112	3.7	19	1
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt.	36	111	3.1	18	2
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	42	111	2.6	t20	2
Cavanaugh, Matt, N.E.	19	97	5.1	22	0
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	33	97	2.9	11	3
Smith, Sherman, Sea.	23	94	4.1	23	0
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	18	84	4.7	t15	1
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	14	82	5.9	27	1

NFC - INDIVIDUALS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Payton, Walter, Chi.	317	1460	4.6	t69	6
Anderson, Ottis, St.L.	301	1352	4.5	52	9
Andrews, William, Atl.	265	1308	4.9	33	4
Sims, Billy, Det.	313	1303	4.2	52	13
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	278	1185	4.3	56	11
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	235	914	3.9	37	8
Brown, Ted, Minn.	219	912	4.2	t55	8
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	202	831	4.1	t38	3
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	183	807	4.4	20	3
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil. ...	193	778	4.0	t72	8
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	164	777	4.7	36	7
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	145	720	5.0	40	3
Cooper, Earl, S.F.	171	720	4.2	47	5
Jackson, Wilbur, Wash.	176	708	4.0	t55	3
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	174	599	3.4	40	2
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	147	580	3.9	35	4
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	126	545	4.3	22	5
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	149	504	3.4	t35	2
Harmon, Clarence, Wash. ...	128	484	3.8	23	4
Morris, Wayne, St.L.	117	456	3.9	24	6
Newhouse, Robert, Dall. ...	118	451	3.8	t29	6
Thomas, Jewerl, L.A.	65	427	6.6	61	2
Guman, Mike, L.A.	100	410	4.1	17	4
Harper, Roland, Chi.	113	404	3.6	13	5
Williams, Doug, T.B.	58	370	6.4	27	4
Rogers, Jimmy, N.O.	80	366	4.6	24	1
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	97	361	3.7	44	4
Heater, Larry, N.Y.G.	111	360	3.2	11	3
Young, Rickey, Minn.	130	351	2.7	14	3
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	76	341	4.5	20	2
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	104	341	3.3	22	3
Springs, Ron, Dall.	89	326	3.7	t20	6
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	81	308	3.8	26	3
Evans, Vince, Chi.	60	306	5.1	58	8
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	60	293	4.9	t26	1
Perry, Leon, N.Y.G.	59	272	4.6	17	1
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	45	265	5.9	36	0
Woods, Don, S.D.-S.F.	54	239	4.4	23	0
Danielson, Gary, Det.	48	232	4.8	33	2
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	67	216	3.2	16	1
Claitt, Ricky, Wash.	57	215	3.8	16	1
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	36	190	5.3	20	1
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	63	188	3.0	15	1
Brown, Theotis, St.L.	40	186	4.7	19	1
Matthews, Bo, N.Y.G.	64	180	2.8	18	0
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	29	175	6.0	t37	3
Harrell, Willard, St.L. ...	42	170	4.0	26	3
Manning, Archie, N.O.	23	166	7.2	24	0
Harrington, Perry, Phil. ...	32	166	5.2	t19	1
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	30	157	5.2	17	0
Middleton, Terdell, G.B. ...	56	155	2.8	15	2
Jones, James, Dall.	41	135	3.3	9	0
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	40	132	3.3	13	0
Berns, Rick, T.B.	39	131	3.4	17	0
Davis, Johnny, T.B.	39	130	3.3	8	1
Kane, Rick, Det.	31	125	4.0	22	0
Hill, Eddie, L.A.	39	120	3.1	19	0
Campfield, Billy, Phil. ...	44	120	2.7	9	1
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	38	119	3.1	20	2
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	31	115	3.7	13	1
White, Danny, Dall.	27	114	4.2	48	1
Miller, Robert, Minn.	27	98	3.6	t27	1
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	27	95	3.5	19	1
Hogan, Mike, N.Y.G.-Phil. ...	34	90	2.6	12	2
McClendon, Willie, Chi. ...	10	88	8.8	48	1
Mayberry, James, Atl.	18	88	4.9	24	0
Scott, Freddie, Det.	5	86	17.2	t48	1
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	25	79	3.2	23	2
Montana, Joe, S.F.	32	77	2.4	11	2
White, Sammy, Minn.	4	65	16.3	45	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det. ...	6	61	10.2	30	0
King, Horace, Det.	18	57	3.2	8	1
Williams, Dave, Chi.	26	57	2.2	14	0



OFFICIAL STATISTICS 1980

RUSHING

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Houston	573	2,635	4.6	t55	18
New England	588	2,240	3.8	44	19
Buffalo	603	2,222	3.7	48	17
Oakland	541	2,146	4.0	t89	14
Baltimore	527	2,078	3.9	t51	20
Cincinnati	513	2,069	4.0	t57	9
Pittsburgh	512	1,986	3.9	28	15
San Diego	509	1,879	3.7	53	18
Miami	492	1,876	3.8	65	9
New York Jets ..	470	1,873	4.0	t31	17
Kansas City	552	1,873	3.4	t38	15
Denver	480	1,865	3.9	35	16
Seattle	456	1,783	3.9	32	13
Cleveland	436	1,673	3.8	t56	15
Conference Total	7,252	28,198	---	t89	215
Conference Average	518.0	2,014.1	3.9	--	15.4

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Los Angeles	615	2,799	4.6	61	17
Detroit	572	2,599	4.5	52	21
Chicago	579	2,440	4.2	t69	22
Atlanta	559	2,405	4.3	37	15
Dallas	595	2,378	4.0	56	26
St. Louis	519	2,183	4.2	52	19
Washington	517	2,016	3.9	t55	12
Philadelphia	527	1,995	3.8	t72	19
Tampa Bay	477	1,839	3.9	40	9
Green Bay	493	1,806	3.7	t38	13
San Francisco ...	415	1,743	4.2	47	10
New York Giants .	483	1,730	3.6	35	10
Minnesota	433	1,642	3.8	t55	14
New Orleans	348	1,362	3.9	26	9
Conference Total	7,132	28,937	---	t72	216
Conference Average	509.4	2,066.9	4.1	--	15.4
League Total	14,384	57,135	---	t89	431
League Average	513.7	2,040.5	4.0	--	15.4

PASSING



AFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	Avg	TD	Pct	Long	Int	Pct	Rating
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	554	337	60.8	4132	7.46	30	5.4	65	14	2.5	91.4
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	589	348	59.1	4715	8.01	30	5.1	65	24	4.1	84.6
Morton, Craig, Den.	301	183	60.8	2150	7.14	12	4.0	41	13	4.3	77.9
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	320	193	60.3	2250	7.03	10	3.1	77	12	3.8	76.1
Jones, Bert, Balt.	446	248	55.6	3134	7.03	23	5.2	47	21	4.7	75.5
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt. ...	424	218	51.4	3339	7.88	24	5.7	t68	22	5.2	75.1
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	439	251	57.2	2805	6.39	20	4.6	69	18	4.1	74.6
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	306	175	57.2	2475	8.09	18	5.9	71	22	7.2	73.1
Plunkett, Jim, Oak.	320	165	51.6	2299	7.18	18	5.6	t86	16	5.0	72.8
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	488	276	56.6	3346	6.86	17	3.5	t67	20	4.1	72.4
Stabler, Ken, Hou.	457	293	64.1	3202	7.01	13	2.8	t79	28	6.1	68.6
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	275	166	60.4	1778	6.47	6	2.2	t67	13	4.7	67.1
Woodley, David, Mia.	327	176	53.8	1850	5.66	14	4.3	61	17	5.2	63.2
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	479	264	55.1	3329	6.95	17	3.5	55	30	6.3	62.4
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	234	115	49.1	1324	5.66	11	4.7	t59	12	5.1	61.0



NFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	Avg	TD	Pct	Long	Int	Pct	Rating
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	451	257	57.0	3529	7.82	27	6.0	t56	12	2.7	90.9
Ferragamo, Vince, L.A. ...	404	240	59.4	3199	7.92	30	7.4	t74	19	4.7	89.7
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl. ...	463	257	55.5	3544	7.65	31	6.7	t81	16	3.5	88.0
Montana, Joe, S.F.	273	176	64.5	1795	6.58	15	5.5	t71	9	3.3	87.8
Danielson, Gary, Det.	417	244	58.5	3223	7.73	13	3.1	t87	11	2.6	82.6
Manning, Archie, N.O.	509	309	60.7	3716	7.30	23	4.5	56	20	3.9	81.8
White, Danny, Dall.	436	260	59.6	3287	7.54	28	6.4	t58	25	5.7	80.8
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	454	262	57.7	2962	6.52	17	3.7	t54	16	3.5	75.1
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	522	299	57.3	3582	6.86	19	3.6	t76	23	4.4	72.1
Dickey, Lynn, G.B.	478	278	58.2	3529	7.38	15	3.1	t69	25	5.2	70.0
Williams, Doug, T.B.	521	254	48.8	3396	6.52	20	3.8	61	16	3.1	69.7
Hart, Jim, St.L.	425	228	53.6	2946	6.93	16	3.8	t69	20	4.7	68.7
DeBerg, Steve, S.F.	321	186	57.9	1998	6.22	12	3.7	t93	17	5.3	66.5
Evans, Vince, Chi.	278	148	53.2	2039	7.33	11	4.0	t89	16	5.8	66.1
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	402	193	48.0	2321	5.77	15	3.7	t58	19	4.7	58.9

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Gross Yards	Tkd	Yds Lost	Avg Yds Att	Avg Yds Comp	TD	Pct TD	Long	Had Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Philadelphia	477	275	57.7	3,771	32	247	7.91	13.71	28	5.9	t56	12	2.5	92.4
Atlanta	467	259	55.5	3,568	35	324	7.64	13.78	31	6.6	t81	17	3.6	87.2
Los Angeles	451	261	57.9	3,441	29	234	7.63	13.18	31	6.9	t74	23	5.1	83.9
Detroit	423	248	58.6	3,287	45	346	7.77	13.25	13	3.1	t87	12	2.8	82.0
Dallas	449	265	59.0	3,356	31	252	7.47	12.66	30	6.7	t58	25	5.6	81.4
New Orleans	566	334	59.0	4,010	46	362	7.08	12.01	26	4.6	56	22	3.9	79.8
San Francisco	597	363	60.8	3,799	30	222	6.36	10.47	27	4.5	t93	26	4.4	75.9
Minnesota	574	331	57.7	3,934	41	246	6.85	11.89	22	3.8	t76	23	4.0	74.7
Washington	486	284	58.4	3,171	36	333	6.52	11.17	17	3.5	t54	18	3.7	74.2
Tampa Bay	530	256	48.3	3,414	24	194	6.44	13.34	20	3.8	61	17	3.2	68.5
Green Bay	511	289	56.6	3,651	43	360	7.14	12.63	15	2.9	t69	29	5.7	64.9
St. Louis	470	239	50.9	3,063	50	387	6.52	12.82	16	3.4	t69	24	5.1	61.8
Chicago	404	209	51.7	2,669	33	274	6.61	12.77	13	3.2	t89	25	6.2	57.6
New York Giants ...	514	245	47.7	2,931	47	322	5.70	11.96	19	3.7	t58	25	4.9	57.5
Conference Total	6,919	3,858	---	48,065	522	4,103	---	---	308	---	t93	298	---	---
Conference Average	494.2	275.6	55.8	3,433.2	37.3	293.1	6.95	12.46	22.0	4.5	--	21.3	4.3	73.8
League Total	13,705	7,699	---	95,935	1,031	8,147	---	---	606	---	t93	627	---	---
League Average	489.5	275.0	56.2	3,426.3	36.8	291.0	7.00	12.46	21.6	4.4	--	22.4	4.6	74.4

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Gross Yards	Tkd	Yds Lost	Avg Yds Att	Avg Yds Comp	TD	Pct TD	Long	Had Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Cleveland	554	337	60.8	4,132	23	217	7.46	12.26	30	5.4	65	14	2.5	91.4
San Diego	594	350	58.9	4,741	32	210	7.98	13.55	30	5.1	65	26	4.4	83.1
New England	413	240	58.1	3,395	25	200	8.22	14.15	27	6.5	71	27	6.5	79.3
Kansas City	401	237	59.1	2,869	57	421	7.15	12.11	15	3.7	77	14	3.5	78.9
Pittsburgh	484	250	51.7	3,832	37	264	7.92	15.33	26	5.4	72	24	5.0	75.3
Baltimore	493	272	55.2	3,409	36	281	6.91	12.53	25	5.1	47	24	4.9	73.5
Buffalo	461	262	56.8	2,936	20	186	6.37	11.21	20	4.3	69	19	4.1	73.2
Houston	463	296	63.9	3,271	27	264	7.06	11.05	15	3.2	t79	28	6.0	70.4
Seattle	517	287	55.5	3,494	51	398	6.76	12.17	18	3.5	t67	23	4.4	69.8
Oakland	456	235	51.5	3,294	47	395	7.22	14.02	23	5.0	t86	24	5.3	69.7
Miami	492	267	54.3	2,953	31	265	6.00	11.06	21	4.3	61	26	5.3	64.6
Denver	467	262	56.1	3,107	44	330	6.65	11.86	14	3.0	52	25	5.4	64.1
Cincinnati	510	281	55.1	3,102	37	287	6.08	11.04	17	3.3	t67	25	4.9	63.9
New York Jets	481	265	55.1	3,335	42	326	6.93	12.58	17	3.5	55	30	6.2	62.7
Conference Total	6,786	3,841	---	47,870	509	4,044	---	---	298	---	t86	329	---	---
Conference Average	484.7	274.4	56.6	3,419.3	36.4	288.9	7.05	12.46	21.3	4.4	--	23.5	4.8	73.3

PASS RECEIVING

AFC - INDIVIDUALS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	89	1290	14.5	65	9
Jefferson, John, S.D.	82	1340	16.3	t58	13
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	71	1132	15.9	51	4
Largent, Steve, Sea.	66	1064	16.1	t67	6
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	63	471	7.5	28	0
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	62	874	14.1	58	6
Carr, Roger, Balt.	61	924	15.1	43	5
Barber, Mike, Hou.	59	712	12.1	t79	5
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	57	832	14.6	69	6
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	57	588	10.3	61	5
Casper, Dave, Oak.-Hou. ...	56	796	14.2	43	4
Ross, Dan, Cin.	56	724	12.9	37	4
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	52	768	14.8	45	4
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	52	415	8.0	t21	1
Logan, Dave, Clev.	51	822	16.1	65	4
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	51	594	11.6	44	3
Washington, Joe, Balt.	51	494	9.7	33	3
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	50	634	12.7	52	3
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	50	444	8.9	43	5
Chandler, Bob, Oak.	49	786	16.0	56	10
Jensen, Jim, Den.	49	377	7.7	28	1
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	47	799	17.0	t75	6

NFC - INDIVIDUALS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Cooper, Earl, S.F.	83	567	6.8	t66	4
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	82	991	12.1	t71	8
Lofton, James, G.B.	71	1226	17.3	47	4
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	69	1095	15.9	t76	5
Tilley, Pat, St.L.	68	966	14.2	t60	6
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	65	975	15.0	50	6
Young, Rickey, Minn.	64	499	7.8	22	2
Brown, Ted, Minn.	62	623	10.0	t67	2
Hill, Tony, Dall.	60	1055	17.6	t58	8
Monk, Art, Wash.	58	797	13.7	t54	3
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	57	1026	18.0	57	6
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	57	470	8.2	21	2
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	54	862	16.0	t81	7
Harmon, Clarence, Wash. ...	54	534	9.9	45	4
White, Sammy, Minn.	53	887	16.7	50	5
Scott, Freddie, Det.	53	834	15.7	t43	4
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	53	386	7.3	25	3
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	52	777	14.9	t50	10
Sims, Billy, Det.	51	621	12.2	t87	3
Andrews, William, Atl.	51	456	8.9	26	1
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	50	481	9.6	t46	1
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	50	407	8.1	31	2



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PASS RECEIVING

AFC - INDIVIDUALS	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Moore, Nat, Mia.	47	564	12.0	33	7
Smith, J. T., K.C.	46	655	14.2	77	2
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	46	605	13.2	35	3
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	45	991	22.0	71	6
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	44	858	19.5	t86	7
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	44	710	16.1	t68	7
Reed, Tony, K.C.	44	422	9.6	34	1
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	43	610	14.2	t67	3
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	43	346	8.0	25	0
Francis, Russ, N.E.	41	664	16.2	t39	8
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	40	648	16.2	t31	6
Odums, Riley, Den.	39	590	15.1	30	6
Moses, Haven, Den.	38	674	17.7	33	4
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	38	320	8.4	26	0
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	37	711	19.2	t45	9
Sawyer, John, Sea.	36	410	11.4	32	0
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	36	310	8.6	t16	3
Alexander, Charles, Cin. ..	36	192	5.3	23	0
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	35	737	21.1	40	5
Renfro, Mike, Hou.	35	459	13.1	42	1
Preston, Dave, Den.	35	309	8.8	36	0
Butler, Ray, Balt.	34	574	16.9	42	2
McCauley, Don, Balt.	34	313	9.2	19	4
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	33	583	17.7	54	2
Bass, Don, Cin.	32	409	12.8	t55	6
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	31	343	11.1	t57	2
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.-S.D. ..	31	259	8.4	19	0
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	31	237	7.6	16	2
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	31	207	6.7	19	0
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	30	196	6.5	31	2
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	30	170	5.7	13	1
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	29	748	25.8	72	2
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	29	259	8.9	37	0
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	29	218	7.5	27	0
Chester, Raymond, Oak.	28	366	13.1	47	4
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	28	196	7.0	19	0
Hill, Calvin, Clev.	27	383	14.2	50	6
Caster, Rich, Hou.	27	341	12.6	t68	3
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	27	137	5.1	20	0
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	27	129	4.8	12	0
Brammer, Mark, Buff.	26	283	10.9	36	4
Williams, Clarence, S.D. ..	26	230	8.8	26	1
Jodat, Jim, Sea.	26	190	7.3	14	1
Jones, Johnny, N.Y.J.	25	482	19.3	55	3
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	25	231	9.2	34	0
Dickey, Curtis, Balt.	25	204	8.2	32	2
Gaffney, Derrick, N.Y.J. ..	24	397	16.5	36	2
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	24	259	10.8	22	3
Giaquinto, Nick, Mia.	24	192	8.0	25	1
Grossman, Randy, Pitt.	23	293	12.7	35	0
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	23	179	7.8	26	0
Shuler, Mickey, N.Y.J.	22	226	10.3	26	2
Ferguson, Vagas, N.E.	22	173	7.9	18	0
King, Kenny, Oak.	22	145	6.6	18	0
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	21	174	8.3	17	1
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	21	172	8.2	t28	1
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	20	144	7.2	18	0
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	20	137	6.9	16	0
Whittington, Arthur, Oak. .	19	205	10.8	55	0
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	19	159	8.4	19	2
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J. ...	19	138	7.3	22	1
Walker, Wesley, N.Y.J.	18	376	20.9	47	1
McCall, Reese, Balt.	18	322	17.9	47	5
McInally, Pat, Cin.	18	269	14.9	t59	2
Cunningham, Bennie, Pitt. .	18	232	12.9	35	2
Lytle, Rob, Den.	18	177	9.8	37	0
Kreider, Steve, Cin.	17	272	16.0	30	0
White, Charles, Clev.	17	153	9.0	t31	1
Raible, Steve, Sea.	16	232	14.5	40	0
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	16	168	10.5	27	0
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt. ...	15	131	8.7	t29	1
Hadnot, James, K.C.	15	97	6.5	18	0
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	15	87	5.8	22	0

NFC - INDIVIDUALS	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Carmichael, Harold, Phil. .	48	815	17.0	t56	9
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	48	669	13.9	t41	5
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	48	658	13.7	t93	8
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	48	496	10.3	t69	3
Smith, Charles, Phil.	47	825	17.6	46	3
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	47	475	10.1	40	1
Miller, Junior, Atl.	46	584	12.7	36	9
Payton, Walter, Chi.	46	367	8.0	t54	1
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	43	568	13.2	30	6
Coffman, Paul, G.B.	42	496	11.8	25	3
Senser, Joe, Minn.	42	447	10.6	t58	7
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	41	467	11.4	28	2
Gray, Mel, St.L.	40	709	17.7	t69	3
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	40	609	15.2	55	2
Hill, David, Det.	39	424	10.9	29	1
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	39	364	9.3	30	0
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	38	670	17.6	t44	5
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	38	292	7.7	22	1
Harris, Ike, N.O.	37	692	18.7	t44	6
Scott, James, Chi.	36	696	19.3	t64	3
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	36	596	16.6	44	6
Anderson, Ottis, St.L.	36	308	8.6	35	0
Childs, Henry, N.O.	34	463	13.6	30	6
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	34	263	7.7	27	0
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	33	602	18.2	51	4
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	33	253	7.7	42	0
Warren, Don, Wash.	31	323	10.4	35	0
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	31	241	7.8	42	1
Krepfle, Keith, Phil.	30	450	15.0	27	4
Young, Charle, S.F.	29	325	11.2	41	2
Dupree, Billy Joe, Dall. ..	29	312	10.8	39	7
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	29	226	7.8	16	1
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	28	396	14.1	37	2
Mullady, Tom, N.Y.G.	28	391	14.0	42	2
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	27	285	10.6	t45	1
Jackson, Wilbur, Wash.	27	279	10.3	27	1
Rogers, Jimmy, N.O.	27	267	9.9	43	2
Williams, Brooks, N.O.	26	351	13.5	56	2
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	26	275	10.6	50	2
Saldi, Jay, Dall.	25	311	12.4	43	1
Pittman, Dan, N.Y.G.	25	308	12.3	22	0
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	25	213	8.5	t59	2
House, Kevin, T.B.	24	531	22.1	61	5
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	24	223	9.3	30	1
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	24	203	8.5	38	1
Jackson, Alfred, Atl.	23	412	17.9	t54	7
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	23	364	15.8	48	2
Hicks, Victor, L.A.	23	318	13.8	t32	3
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	22	444	20.2	t89	2
Friede, Mike, Det.-N.Y.G. .	22	371	16.9	48	0
Miller, Willie, L.A.	22	358	16.3	45	8
Thompson, Ricky, Wash.	22	313	14.2	t54	5
Marsh, Doug, St.L.	22	269	12.2	29	4
Williams, Dave, Chi.	22	132	6.0	18	0
Brown, Theotis, St.L.	21	290	13.8	63	1
Shirk, Gary, N.Y.G.	21	211	10.0	21	1
Ramson, Eason, S.F.	21	179	8.5	22	2
Pearson, Preston, Dall.	20	213	10.7	20	2
Woods, Don, S.F.	20	171	8.6	23	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	19	511	26.9	t79	3
Hill, Drew, L.A.	19	416	21.9	t74	2
Johnson, Butch, Dall.	19	263	13.8	t29	4
King, Horace, Det.	19	184	9.7	29	1
Matthews, Bo, N.Y.G.	19	86	4.5	12	0
Earl, Robin, Chi.	18	223	12.4	28	3
Spagnola, John, Phil.	18	193	10.7	20	3
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	17	178	10.5	30	1
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	16	178	11.1	46	0
Stief, Dave, St.L.	16	165	10.3	23	0
Springs, Ron, Dall.	15	212	14.1	t58	1
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	15	207	13.8	t51	1
Forte, Ike, Wash.	15	174	11.6	28	1
Tucker, Bob, Minn.	15	173	11.5	25	1

Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	14	193	13.8	25	0
Burke, Randy, Balt.	14	185	13.2	t19	3
Franklin, Cleveland, Balt.	14	112	8.0	16	0
Foreman, Chuck, N.E.	14	99	7.1	18	0
Barkum, Jerome, N.Y.J.	13	244	18.8	28	1
Rose, Joe, Mia.	13	149	11.5	50	0
Cappelletti, John, S.D. ...	13	112	8.6	12	0
Robiskie, Terry, Mia.	13	60	4.6	15	0
Sweeney, Calvin, Pitt.	12	282	23.5	34	1
Gant, Reuben, Buff.	12	181	15.1	48	1
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	12	158	13.2	33	0
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	12	95	7.9	19	0
Turner, Deacon, Cin.	12	73	6.1	15	1
Cefalo, Jimmy, Mia.	11	199	18.1	52	1
McCrory, Gregg, S.D.	11	106	9.6	t28	2
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	11	47	4.3	10	0
Feacher, Ricky, Clev.	10	244	24.4	t55	4
Harris, M. L., Cin.	10	137	13.7	26	0
Stallworth, John, Pitt. ...	9	197	21.9	t50	1
Siani, Mike, Balt.	9	174	19.3	t38	1
McCutcheon, Lawrence, Den-Sea	9	76	8.4	17	1
Gant, Earl, K.C.	9	68	7.6	33	0
Sims, Marvin, Balt.	9	64	7.1	13	0
Adams, Willis, Clev.	8	165	20.6	39	0
Hasselbeck, Don, N.E.	8	130	16.3	t35	4
Samuels, Tony, K.C.	8	110	13.8	34	2

Morris, Wayne, St.L.	15	110	7.3	24	1
Perkins, Johnny, N.Y.G. ...	14	193	13.8	t58	3
McDaniel, John, Wash.	14	154	11.0	18	0
Guman, Mike, L.A.	14	131	9.4	41	0
Hardy, Larry, N.O.	13	197	15.2	44	0
LeCount, Terry, Minn.	13	168	12.9	21	0
Middleton, Terdell, G.B. ..	13	59	4.5	17	0
Fisher, Robert, Chi.	12	203	16.9	t56	2
Davis, Tony, T.B.	12	115	9.6	18	1
Obradovich, Jim, T.B.	11	152	13.8	24	0
Thompson, Jesse, Det.	11	137	12.5	19	0
Moore, Jeff, L.A.	10	168	16.8	37	1
Williams, Ray, Det.	10	146	14.6	t22	1
Heater, Larry, N.Y.G.	10	139	13.9	43	0
Walker, Rick, Wash.	10	88	8.8	t15	1
Miller, Robert, Minn.	10	19	1.9	13	0
Parker, Rodney, Phil.	9	148	16.4	t30	1
Owens, James, S.F.	9	133	14.8	29	0
Davis, Gary, T.B.	9	79	8.8	15	0
Harrell, Willard, St.L. ...	9	52	5.8	14	0
Bell, Mark, St.L.	8	123	15.4	34	0
Perry, Leon, N.Y.G.	8	84	10.5	25	1
Newhouse, Robert, Dall. ...	8	75	9.4	18	0
Harrison, Kenny, Wash.	8	66	8.3	12	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	7	60	8.6	21	0
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	7	47	6.7	16	1

AFC - INDIVIDUALS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	3	33	11.0	20	0
Corbett, Jim, Cin.	3	28	9.3	12	0
Garcia, Bubba, K.C.	3	27	9.0	10	1
Bennett, Woody, Mia.	3	26	8.7	t19	1
Miller, Terry, Buff.	3	25	8.3	15	0
Oden, McDonald, Clev.	3	18	6.0	8	0
DeRoo, Brian, Balt.	2	34	17.0	18	0
Levenseller, Mike, Cin. ...	2	30	15.0	22	0
Smith, Tim, Hou.	2	21	10.5	13	0
Williams, Mike, K.C.	2	9	4.5	6	1
Miller, Cleo, Clev.	2	8	4.0	7	0
Poole, Nathan, Cin.	2	-4	-2.0	3	0
Martini, Rich, Oak.	1	36	36.0	36	0
Floyd, John, S.D.	1	31	31.0	t31	1
Brunson, Larry, Den.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Bell, Mark, Sea.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Brinson, Larry, Sea.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Garry, Ben, Balt.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Herrera, Efren, Sea.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Larson, Bill, Den.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Lewis, Kenny, N.Y.J.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Essink, Ron, Sea.	1	2	2.0	t2	1
Munoz, Anthony, Cin.	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0

NFC - INDIVIDUALS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Paschal, Doug, Minn.	2	18	9.0	11	0
Cobb, Mike, Chi.	2	16	8.0	9	0
Laidlaw, Scott, N.Y.G.	2	16	8.0	10	0
Cosbie, Doug, Dall.	2	11	5.5	6	1
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	2	8	4.0	5	0
Anderson, Vickey Ray, G.B.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Owens, Tinker, N.O.	1	26	26.0	26	0
Callicutt, Ken, Det.	1	19	19.0	19	0
DuBois, Phil, Wash.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Mauti, Rich, N.O.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Banks, Gordon, N.O.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Gilbert, Lewis, Phil.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Berns, Rick, T.B.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Dixon, Zachary, Phil.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Yary, Ron, Minn.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Hicks, Eddie, N.Y.G.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Martin, George, N.Y.G.	1	4	4.0	t4	1
Mikeska, Russ, Atl.	1	4	4.0	4	0
White, Danny, Dall.	1	-9	-9.0	-9	0

t = Touchdown

Leader based on most passes caught

AFC - TOP 25 PASS RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	Yards	No	Avg	Long	TD
Jefferson, John, S.D.	1340	82	16.3	t58	13
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	1290	89	14.5	65	9
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	1132	71	15.9	51	4
Largent, Steve, Sea.	1064	66	16.1	t67	6
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	991	45	22.0	71	6
Carr, Roger, Balt.	924	61	15.1	43	5
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	874	62	14.1	58	6
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	858	44	19.5	t86	7
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	832	57	14.6	69	6
Logan, Dave, Clev.	822	51	16.1	65	4
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	799	47	17.0	t75	6
Casper, Dave, Oak.-Hou. ...	796	56	14.2	43	4
Chandler, Bob, Oak.	786	49	16.0	56	10
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	768	52	14.8	45	4
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	748	29	25.8	72	2
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	737	35	21.1	40	5
Ross, Dan, Cin.	724	56	12.9	37	4
Barber, Mike, Hou.	712	59	12.1	t79	5
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	711	37	19.2	t45	9
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	710	44	16.1	t68	7
Moses, Haven, Den.	674	38	17.7	33	4
Francis, Russ, N.E.	664	41	16.2	t39	8
Smith, J. T., K.C.	655	46	14.2	77	2
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	648	40	16.2	t31	6
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	634	50	12.7	52	3

NFC - TOP 25 PASS RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	Yards	No	Avg	Long	TD
Lofton, James, G.B.	1226	71	17.3	47	4
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	1095	69	15.9	t76	5
Hill, Tony, Dall.	1055	60	17.6	t58	8
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	1026	57	18.0	57	6
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	991	82	12.1	t71	8
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	975	65	15.0	50	6
Tilley, Pat, St.L.	966	68	14.2	t60	6
White, Sammy, Minn.	887	53	16.7	50	5
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	862	54	16.0	t81	7
Scott, Fred, Det.	834	53	15.7	t43	4
Smith, Charles, Phil.	825	47	17.6	46	3
Carmichael, Harold, Phil. .	815	48	17.0	t56	9
Monk, Art, Wash.	797	58	13.7	t54	3
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	777	52	14.9	t50	10
Gray, Mel, St.L.	709	40	17.7	t69	3
Scott, James, Chi.	696	36	19.3	t64	3
Harris, Ike, N.O.	692	37	18.7	t44	6
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	670	38	17.6	t44	5
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	669	48	13.9	t41	5
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	658	48	13.7	t93	8
Brown, Ted, Minn.	623	62	10.0	t67	2
Sims, Billy, Det.	621	51	12.2	t87	3
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	609	40	15.2	55	2
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	602	33	18.2	51	4
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	596	36	16.6	44	6

TOP TEN

TOP TEN INTERCEPTORS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Hayes, Lester, Oak.	13	273	21.0	62	1
Barbaro, Gary, K.C.	10	163	16.3	39	0
Cromwell, Nolan, L.A.	8	140	17.5	34	1
Schroy, Ken, N.Y.J.	8	91	11.4	t82	1
Richardson, Al, Atl.	7	139	19.9	52	0
Shell, Donnie, Pitt.	7	135	19.3	67	0
Freeman, Steve, Buff.	7	107	15.3	t47	1
Tatum, Jack, Hou.	7	100	14.3	35	0
Breeden, Louis, Cin.	7	91	13.0	29	0
Harris, Eric, K.C.	7	54	7.7	41	0
Small, Gerald, Mia.	7	46	6.6	22	0
Parrish, Lemar, Wash.	7	13	1.9	9	0



OFFICIAL STATISTICS 1980

TOP TEN PUNT RETURNERS

	No	FC	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Smith, J. T., K.C.	40	8	581	14.5	t75	2
Johnson, Kenny, Atl.	23	5	281	12.2	56	0
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	27	2	298	11.0	t57	2
Green, Roy, St.L.	16	6	168	10.5	t57	1
Jones, James, Dall.	54	4	548	10.1	52	0
Nelms, Mike, Wash.	48	5	487	10.1	64	0
James, Roland, N.E.	33	3	331	10.0	t75	1
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	34	6	339	10.0	27	0
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	30	12	298	9.9	31	0
Smith, Reggie, Atl.	27	4	262	9.7	25	0

TOP TEN RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	373	1934	5.2	t55	13
Payton, Walter, Chi.	317	1460	4.6	t69	6
Anderson, Ottis, St.L.	301	1352	4.5	52	9
Andrews, William, Atl.	265	1308	4.9	33	4
Sims, Billy, Det.	313	1303	4.2	52	13
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	278	1185	4.3	56	11
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	306	1185	3.9	48	11
Pruitt, Mike, Cle.	249	1034	4.2	t56	6
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	235	914	3.9	37	8
Brown, Ted, Minn.	219	912	4.2	t55	8

TOP TEN PASS RECEIVERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	89	1290	14.5	65	9
Cooper, Earl, S.F.	83	567	6.8	t66	4
Jefferson, John, S.D.	82	1340	16.3	t58	13
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	82	991	12.1	t71	8
Lofton, James, G.B.	71	1226	17.3	47	4
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	71	1132	15.9	51	4
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	69	1095	15.9	t76	5
Tilley, Pat, St.L.	68	966	14.2	t60	6
Largent, Steve, Sea.	66	1064	16.1	t67	6
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	65	975	15.0	50	6

TOP TEN SCORERS - KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Smith, John, N.E.	51	51	26	34	129
Benirschke, Roif, S.D.	46	48	24	36	118
Murray, Ed, Det.	35	36	27	42	116
Steinfort, Fred, Den.	32	33	26	34	110
Mazzetti, Tim, Atl.	46	49	19	27	103
Corral, Frank, L.A.	51	52	16	30	99
Bahr, Chris, Oak.	41	44	19	37	98
Lowery, Nick, K.C.	37	37	20	26	97
Bahr, Matt, Pitt.	39	42	19	28	96
Franklin, Tony, Phil.	48	48	16	31	96

TOP TEN SCORERS - NON-KICKERS

	TD	R	P	M	PTS
Sims, Billy, Det.	16	13	3	0	96
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	13	13	0	0	78
Dickey, Curtis, Balt.	13	11	2	0	78
Jefferson, John, S.D.	13	0	13	0	78
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	12	11	1	0	72
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	11	11	0	0	66
Brown, Ted, Minn.	10	8	2	0	60
Chandler, Bob, Oak.	10	0	10	0	60
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	10	0	10	0	60
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	10	8	2	0	60
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	10	0	8	2	60

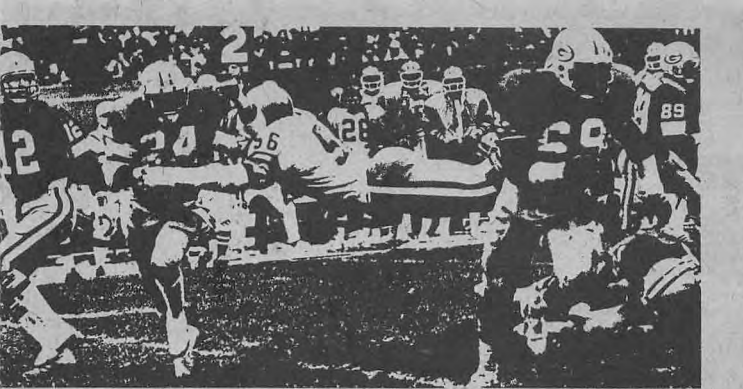
TOP TEN PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Long	Avg	Total Punts	TB	Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avg
Jennings, Dave, N.Y.G.	94	4211	63	44.8	94	13	0	58	506	16	36.6
Prestridge, Luke, Den.	70	3075	57	43.9	70	6	0	52	443	10	35.9
Guy, Ray, Oak.	71	3099	66	43.6	71	14	0	34	268	18	35.9
Roberts, George, Mia.	77	3279	71	42.6	79	8	2	42	339	18	35.2
Ramsey, Chuck, N.Y.J.	73	3096	59	42.4	74	10	1	46	369	15	34.1
Blanchard, Tom, T.B.	88	3722	62	42.3	89	12	1	54	529	18	33.2
Skladany, Tom, Det.	72	3036	67	42.2	73	8	1	38	300	16	35.3
Weaver, Herman, Sea.	67	2798	62	41.8	69	7	2	42	476	14	31.6
Swider, Larry, St.L.	99	4111	66	41.5	100	15	1	62	645	12	31.7
Miller, Jim, S.F.	77	3152	65	40.9	77	5	0	48	530	11	32.8

TOP TEN INDIVIDUAL PASSING QUALIFIERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yards	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	554	337	60.8	4132	7.46	30	5.4	65	14	2.5	91.4
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	451	257	57.0	3529	7.82	27	6.0	t56	12	2.7	90.9
Ferragamo, Vince, L.A.	404	240	59.4	3199	7.92	30	7.4	t74	19	4.7	89.7
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl.	463	257	55.5	3544	7.65	31	6.7	t81	16	3.5	88.0
Montana, Joe, S.F.	273	176	64.5	1795	6.58	15	5.5	t71	9	3.3	87.8
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	589	348	59.1	4715	8.01	30	5.1	65	24	4.1	84.6
Danielson, Gary, Det.	417	244	58.5	3223	7.73	13	3.1	t87	11	2.6	82.6
Manning, Archie, N.O.	509	309	60.7	3716	7.30	23	4.5	56	20	3.9	81.8
White, Danny, Dall.	436	260	59.6	3287	7.54	28	6.4	t58	25	5.7	80.8
Morton, Craig, Den.	301	183	60.8	2150	7.14	12	4.0	41	13	4.3	77.9





AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE DEFENSE

	Balt.	Buf.	Cin.	Clev.	Den.	Hou.	K.C.	Min.	N.E.	N.Y.J.	Oak.	Pitt.	S.D.	Sea.
First Downs	336	251	286	340	303	259	328	305	270	346	313	302	284	301
Rushing	140	109	111	105	125	94	136	107	118	127	108	101	101	129
Passing	164	120	154	157	158	147	179	185	141	198	181	171	156	147
Penalty	34	22	21	38	20	18	13	17	11	23	30	30	27	25
Rushes	574	486	482	485	554	444	536	530	492	508	501	486	478	550
Net Yds. Gained	2210	1819	1680	1761	2120	1811	2206	2018	1876	1951	1726	1762	1842	2067
Av. Gain	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.9	3.8
Av. Yds. per Game	158.1	113.7	105.0	110.1	132.5	112.7	137.9	126.1	117.3	121.9	107.9	110.1	115.1	129.2
Passes Attempted	476	433	481	536	448	454	523	505	458	544	524	532	519	482
Completed	280	240	284	336	270	246	278	290	266	337	290	290	300	267
% Completed	54.6	55.4	57.8	62.7	60.3	54.2	53.2	57.4	58.1	61.9	56.5	52.6	57.8	57.8
Total Yds. Gained	3576	2561	3426	4089	3449	3053	3393	3439	3327	3899	3731	3517	3324	3280
Passer Tackled	34	33	35	32	38	34	37	42	28	54	44	44	50	26
Yds. Lost	240	279	302	224	224	252	244	233	346	235	419	445	475	170
Net Yds. Gained	3336	2282	3124	3865	3125	2801	3109	3206	2886	3664	3312	3372	2849	3110
Av. Yds. per Game	236.5	162.6	195.3	241.6	195.3	175.1	194.3	200.4	180.4	222.0	207.0	210.8	178.1	194.4
Net Yds. per Pass Play	6.59	4.90	5.94	6.80	6.42	5.74	5.55	6.03	5.75	6.41	5.73	6.13	4.92	6.37
Yds. Gained per Comp.	13.75	10.67	12.06	12.17	12.77	12.41	12.21	11.86	12.15	11.57	12.60	12.56	11.10	12.28
Combined Net Yds. Gained	5546	4101	4804	5626	5245	4612	5315	5224	4762	5615	5038	5134	4691	5177
% Total Yds. Rushing	39.85	44.38	34.97	63.30	40.42	39.27	41.51	38.63	39.40	54.75	34.26	34.32	39.27	39.93
% Total Yds. Passing	60.15	55.64	65.03	36.70	59.58	60.73	58.49	61.37	60.60	65.25	65.74	65.68	60.73	60.07
Av. Yds. per Game	346.6	256.3	300.3	351.6	327.8	288.3	332.6	326.5	297.6	350.9	314.9	320.9	293.2	323.6
Ball Control Plays	1080	952	935	1053	1041	932	1096	1062	984	1080	1079	1036	1057	1038
Av. Yds. per Play	5.1	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.2	4.7	5.0	4.4	5.0
Intercepted	17	24	20	22	16	26	28	28	24	23	35	26	20	23
% Yds. Returned by	31.7	33.4	25.6	28.6	34.3	31.3	36.8	38.8	28.6	29.3	50.1	28.0	27.0	9.5
Returned for TD	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0

Yds. Returned by	17	24	20	22	16	26	28	28	24	23	35	26	20	23
Returned for TD	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0

Punts	72	82	72	63	70	78	66	72	92	63	87	73	86	66
Yds. Punted	2860	3226	2773	2356	2914	3193	2788	2684	3775	2512	3382	2970	3471	2652
Av. Yds. per Punt	39.7	39.3	38.5	37.4	41.6	40.9	42.7	37.4	41.0	39.9	38.9	40.7	40.4	40.2

Punt Returns	49	34	46	38	52	40	44	42	28	46	34	34	43	42
Yds. Returned	357	204	473	245	443	394	269	383	237	369	288	217	359	476
Av. Yds. per Return	7.3	6.0	10.4	6.4	8.5	9.9	6.6	8.1	8.5	8.0	7.9	6.4	8.3	11.3
Returned for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Kickoff Returns	54	52	57	71	55	68	61	53	89	54	66	68	75	64
Yds. Returned	1062	1051	1180	1018	1187	1265	1253	1210	1649	1207	1315	1339	1617	1223
Av. Yds. per Return	19.7	20.2	20.7	14.3	21.6	18.6	20.4	21.4	18.2	22.4	19.3	19.7	21.6	19.1
Returned for TD	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Penalties	96	97	106	96	101	101	82	108	92	90	102	83	104	103
Yds. Penalized	775	805	809	766	850	763	617	823	833	872	922	806	880	876

Fumbles	32	37	44	23	26	22	26	31	31	26	34	23	39	33
Lost	17	20	22	10	12	13	15	17	10	9	17	14	18	11
Out of Bounds	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	2	3	3	2
Own Rec. for TD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opp. Rec. for TD	13	22	8	1	12	19	16	16	1	11	20	18	22	15
Opp. Rec. for TD	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0

Total Points Scored	387	260	312	310	323	251	336	305	325	395	306	313	327	408
Total TDs	47	31	38	37	34	27	42	36	40	38	37	40	47	47
TDs Rushing	20	14	13	12	10	8	17	13	12	20	9	18	17	17
TDs Passing	21	15	22	23	20	16	25	21	28	27	17	25	28	28
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	6	2	3	2	4	3	0	2	0	4	2	3	4	2
Extra Points	45	29	36	32	32	26	39	33	39	50	36	34	39	45
Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Goals Made	20	15	16	18	29	21	15	18	14	13	14	19	16	25
Field Goals Attempted	30	20	27	29	40	30	25	20	24	24	29	34	33	33
% Successful	66.7	75.0	59.3	62.1	72.5	72.4	50.0	72.0	70.0	54.2	58.3	65.5	47.1	75.8

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE OFFENSE

	Balt.	Buf.	Cin.	Clev.	Den.	Hou.	K.C.	Min.	N.E.	N.Y.J.	Oak.	Pitt.	S.D.	Sea.
First Downs	327	317	283	336	286	329	270	284	316	299	281	308	372	302
Rushing	128	134	111	108	155	130	107	139	124	105	117	106	114	114
Passing	174	157	147	207	158	152	122	149	154	146	149	177	244	166
Penalty	25	26	25	27	21	22	18	28	26	19	24	20	22	22
Rushes	527	603	513	436	480	573	552	492	588	470	541	512	509	456
Net Yds. Gained	2078	2222	2068	1673	1865	2635	1873	1676	2240	1873	2144	1986	1879	1783
Av. Gain	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.6	3.4	3.4	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.9
Av. Yds. per Game	129.9	138.9	129.3	104.6	116.6	164.7	117.1	117.3	140.0	117.1	134.1	124.1	117.4	111.4
Passes Attempted	493	461	510	554	467	463	401	492	413	481	456	484	594	517
Completed	272	262	281	337	262	296	237	267	240	265	235	250	350	287
% Completed	55.2	56.8	55.1	60.8	56.1	63.9	59.1	64.3	58.1	55.1	51.5	51.7	58.9	55.5
Total Yds. Gained	3409	2936	3102	4132	3107	3217	2869	2953	3395	3353	3294	3832	4741	3494
Passer Tackled	36	20	37	23	44	27	57	25	42	29	47	37	32	51
Yds. Lost	281	186	282	217	294	421	265	422	326	324	281	364	210	359
Net Yds. Gained	3128	2750	2815	3915	2777	3007	2448	2668	3195	3009	2899	3568	4531	3096
Av. Yds. per Game	195.5	171.9	175.9	244.7	173.6	187.9	153.0	168.0	199.7	188.1	181.2	223.0	283.2	193.5
Net Yds. per Pass Play	5.91	5.72	5.15	6.79	5.43	6.14	5.04	5.24	7.29	5.75	5.78	6.85	7.28	5.45
Yds. Gained per Comp.	12.53	11.21	11.04	12.26	11.86	11.05	12.11	11.66	14.15	12.58	14.02	13.33	15.55	12.17
Combined Net Yds. Gained	5206	4972	4884	5588	4642	5642	4321	4564	5435	4882	5054	5554	6401	4879
% Total Yds. Rushing	39.92	44.69	42.38	29.94	40.18	46.70	43.35	41.10	41.21	36.37	42.54	35.76	29.31	36.54
% Total Yds. Passing	60.08	55.31	57.64	70.06	59.82	53.30	56.65	58.90	58.79	63.63	57.46	64.24	70.69	63.46
Av. Yds. per Game	325.4	310.8	305.3	349.3	290.1	352.6	270.1	285.3	339.7	305.1	315.3	347.1	400.6	304.9
Ball Control Plays	1056	1014	1063	1013	991	1063	1010	1026	993	1044	1033	1135	1024	1024
Av. Yds. per Play	4.9	4.6	4.6	5.5	4.7	5.3	4.3	4.5	5.3	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.6	4.8
Had Intercepted	24	19	25	14	25	28	14	26	27	30	24	24	26	23
% Yds. Returned by	378	193	351	270	388	424	130	386	369	408	153	226	419	170
Returned for TD	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2

Yds. Returned by	24	19	25	14	25	28	14	26	27	30	24	24	26	23
Returned for TD	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2

Punts	84	74	87	66	70	67	85	79	63	74	71	66	61	70
Yds. Punted	3203	2828	3457	2530	3075	2727	3317	3279	2392	3096	2656	2347	2827	279
Av. Yds. per Punt	38.1	38.2	39.7	38.3	43.9	40.7	39.0	41.5	38.0	41.8	43.2	40.2	38.5	40.4

Avg. Yds. per Punt	38.3	38.2	39.7	35.3	43.9	40.7	39.0	32.5	35.2	38.0	41.8	43.6	40.2	38.5	40.4
Punt Returns	26	39	39	35	42	48	40	32	60	33	49	45	41	41	41
Yds. Returned	188	259	252	170	408	384	581	213	513	269	421	391	335	349	349

PASSERS PASS MORE...



Our annual pass/rush ratio chart has been bending with the wind. In the last couple of years, new NFL rules to unwind the passing offense have brought excitement to the pass-oriented fans, quarterbacks, receivers, Sid Gillman-type coaches, and TV time buyers. And our chart reflects what has been happening.

The only time in history a team won an NFL title in a season that called for more pass plays than running plays was in 1970. That year, in the face of rules heavily favoring the defense, Johnny Unitas of the Colts asserted a point he had subtly established years earlier: If you have the right type of pin-point pass play in your repertoire, you can make the short pass a part of ball control, using it as most teams use a successful sweep or an effective quick-opener.

In the early days of our annual pass-rush ratio charts, we found that usually only a couple of teams per season would pass more than they ran. But this year, a brand new pattern appears. In 1980, for the first time, over half of the NFL teams called more pass plays than running plays.

However, despite the trend toward more passing, three of the five AFC playoff teams and four of the five NFC playoff teams relied more often on the run. Super Bowl opponents Oakland and Philadelphia both kept their running plays at the 50 percent-plus level.

The new rules may help pass-minded coaches to back more opponents into the corner with bombs, but the ability to control the game with running plays still dominates the road to the Super Bowl. And, as usual, in Super Bowl XV, the winning team ran more than it passed, and the loser passed more than it ran.

If you think these figures occurred only because the team that wins traditionally plays ball control at the end while the trailing team tries to play catch-up, keep in mind that the half-time stats in Super Bowl XV showed that Oakland had a bigger ratio of rushes to passes (67 to 33 percent) in the first half than in the total game (61 to 39 percent).

Another facet of the "ratio" game is the use of the pass on first down. For years, the fans, the media, and other

experts have made it clear to the coaches and quarterbacks that they must pass more on first down. But there are some coaches who still find it abhorrent to give the defensive signal caller a grin of expectancy 50 percent of the time on second down.

(Approximately half of all forward passes are incomplete. Therefore, half the time, after first-down passes, it is 2nd-and-10, and that's a signal caller's dream. Or would you rather guess the offense's next move on 2nd-and-6 or 2nd-and-5?)

In Super Bowl XV, both teams preferred the run on first down, and the accompanying chart shows that 1st-and-10 running plays led to success more than 1st-and-10 passes.

Offensive strategy has not been affected by the weather in 15 Super Bowls. Nor will it be, in 1982, when number XVI will be played at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan. Indoor stadia protect the game from strategy-altering elements of rain, sleet, snow, and mud.

Regular Super Bowl buffs who will be making their first visit to Pontiac next January can expect to take extra winter clothing—a new problem, even for those who shivered in New Orleans at Super Bowl XI. But heavy snows and blizzards are always just around the corner in Michigan in January.

Also, the Silverdome creates other minor problems. The usual pre-game parties, such as the one hosted by the television network, cannot be held in stadium banquet rooms that do not exist, nor can tents be erected nearby (as in Pasadena, New Orleans, and Miami) with any guarantee that the weather will be "permitting."

There is so little room behind the players benches that CBS will have to eliminate its normal procedure of running a camera on a truck along the full length of sideline.

The stadium roof is held up by air pressure. Therefore, entrances and exits must be made through revolving doors, which will not permit a continuous stream of people to enter for halftime entertainment purposes.

Should you be in search of a sneaky fast exit, or a boy scout waiting to help some little old lady cross the stadium threshold, your problem at the Silverdome would be the same. You've got to revolve to make your move. ■

... RUNNERS STILL SCORE

SUPER BOWL XV PASS/RUSH SELECTIONS ON 1st-and-10

	No.	FD	TD	FG	FGA	Punt	Turnover
Oakland's 1st-and-10 rushes:	14 leading to:	10	2	1	2	2	0
Oakland's 1st-and-10 passes:	9 leading to:	7	1	1	1	1	0
Philadelphia's 1st-and-10 rushes:	16 leading to:	11	1	1	1	2	2
Philadelphia's 1st-and-10 passes:	12 leading to:	8	0	0	1	1	2

NFL RUSH/PASS RATIO—1980

AFC:	Rush/Pass Total Plays	Rush/Pass Total NYG	Rushes	Pct. Rushes	NYG Rush	Pct. NYG Rush	Passes and Sacks	Pct. Passes	NYG Passes	Pct. NYG Passes	Change in Pct. Rush from 1980
1) New England.....	1026	5435	588	57.3	2240	41.2	438	42.3	3195	58.8	+ 1.3
2) Buffalo**.....	1084	4972	603	55.6	2222	44.7	481	44.4	2750	55.3	+ 5.1
3) Kansas City.....	1010	4321	552	54.7	1873	43.3	458	45.3	2448	56.7	- 6.5
4) Houston*.....	1063	5642	573	53.9	2635	46.7	490	46.1	3007	53.3	- 7.6
5) Oakland****.....	1044	5045	541	51.8	2146	42.5	503	48.2	2899	57.5	+ 2.9
6) Baltimore.....	1056	5206	527	49.9	2078	39.9	529	50.1	3128	60.1	+ 1.5
7) Pittsburgh.....	1033	5554	512	49.6	1986	35.8	521	50.4	3568	64.2	- 3.7
8) Miami.....	1015	4564	492	48.5	1876	41.1	523	51.5	2688	58.9	- 8.9
9) Denver.....	991	4642	480	48.4	1865	40.2	511	51.6	2777	59.8	- 4.0
10) Cincinnati.....	1060	4884	513	48.4	2069	42.4	547	51.6	2815	57.6	- 8.4
11) New York Jets.....	993	4882	470	47.3	1873	38.4	523	52.7	3009	61.6	-15.9
12) San Diego***.....	1135	6410	509	44.8	1879	29.3	626	55.2	4531	70.7	- 2.3
13) Seattle.....	1024	4879	456	44.5	1783	36.5	568	55.5	3096	63.5	- 4.4
14) Cleveland**.....	1013	5588	436	43.0	1673	29.9	577	57.0	3915	70.1	- 5.0
AFC TOTALS	14,547	72,024	7252	49.7	28,198	39.2	7295	50.1	43,826	60.8	- 3.8

NFC:

1) Chicago.....	1016	4835	579	57.0	2440	50.5	437	43.0	2395	49.5	- 5.7
2) Los Angeles*.....	1095	6006	615	56.2	2799	46.6	480	43.8	3207	53.4	- 0.3
3) Dallas***.....	1075	5482	595	55.3	2378	43.4	480	44.7	3104	56.6	+ 1.8
4) Detroit.....	1040	5540	572	55.0	2599	46.9	468	45.0	2941	53.1	+ 5.6
5) Atlanta**.....	1061	5649	559	52.7	2405	42.6	502	47.3	3244	57.4	+ 1.6
6) Philadelphia****.....	1036	5519	527	50.9	1995	36.1	509	49.1	3524	63.9	- 7.1
7) St. Louis.....	1039	4859	519	49.95	2183	44.9	520	50.05	2676	55.1	- 3.6
8) Washington.....	1039	4854	517	49.8	2016	41.5	522	50.2	2838	58.5	-10.5
9) Green Bay.....	1047	5097	493	47.1	1806	35.4	554	52.9	3291	64.6	- 5.0
10) Tampa Bay.....	1031	5059	477	46.266	1839	36.4	554	53.7	3220	63.6	-12.1
11) New York Giants.....	1044	4339	483	46.264	1730	39.9	561	53.7	2609	60.1	- 9.1
12) Minnesota**.....	1048	5330	433	41.3	1642	30.8	615	58.7	3688	69.2	- 4.9
13) San Francisco.....	1042	5320	415	39.8	1743	32.8	627	60.2	3577	67.2	- 4.6
14) New Orleans.....	960	5010	348	36.25	1362	27.2	612	63.75	3648	72.8	-20.1
	14,573	72,899	7132	48.9	28,937	39.7	7441	51.1	43,962	60.3	- 5.2

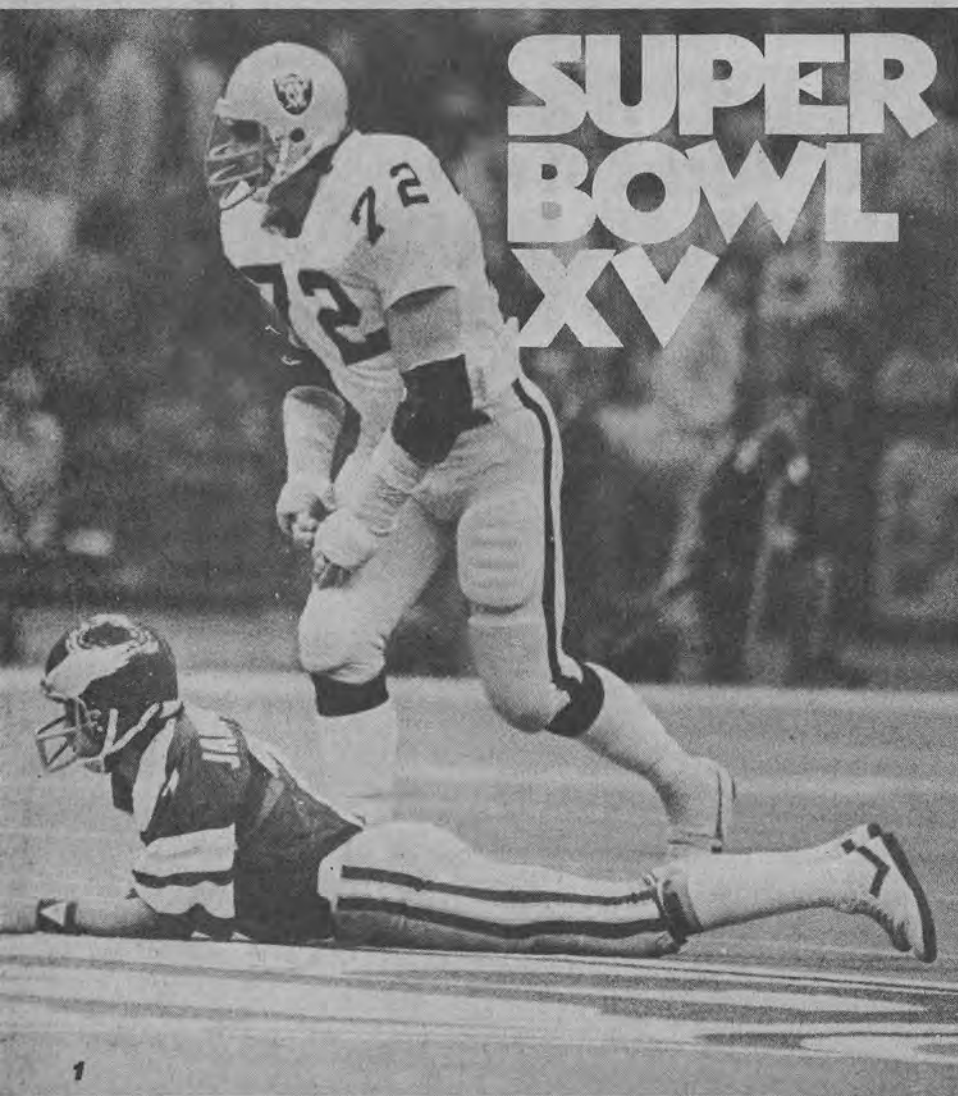
*Wild card **Playoff participant ***Championship playoff ****Conference champion

SUPER BOWL WINNERS

SB	Date	Place	Winner	Loser
I.....	Jan. 15, 1967	Los Angeles	Green Bay (Lombardi).....(NFL).....35	Kansas City (Stram).....(AFL).....10
II.....	Jan. 14, 1968	Miami	Green Bay (Lombardi).....(NFL).....33	Oakland (Rauch).....(AFL).....14
III.....	Jan. 12, 1969	Miami	New York Jets (Ewbank).....(AFL).....16	Baltimore (Shula).....(NFL).....7
IV.....	Jan. 11, 1970	New Orleans	Kansas City (Stram).....(AFL).....23	Minnesota (Grant).....(NFL).....7
V.....	Jan. 17, 1971	Miami	Baltimore (McCafferty).....(AFC).....16	Dallas (Landry).....(NFC).....13
VI.....	Jan. 16, 1972	New Orleans	Dallas (Landry).....(NFC).....24	Miami (Shula).....(AFC).....3
VII.....	Jan. 14, 1973	Los Angeles	Miami (Shula).....(AFC).....14	Washington (Allen).....(NFC).....7
VIII.....	Jan. 13, 1974	Houston	Miami (Shula).....(AFC).....24	Minnesota (Grant).....(NFC).....7
IX.....	Jan. 12, 1975	New Orleans	Pittsburgh (Noll).....(AFC).....16	Minnesota (Grant).....(NFC).....6
X.....	Jan. 18, 1976	Miami	Pittsburgh (Noll).....(AFC).....21	Dallas (Landry).....(NFC).....17
XI.....	Jan. 9, 1977	Pasadena	Oakland (Madden).....(AFC).....32	Minnesota (Grant).....(NFC).....14
XII.....	Jan. 15, 1978	New Orleans	Dallas (Landry).....(NFC).....27	Denver (Miller).....(AFC).....10
XIII.....	Jan. 21, 1979	Miami	Pittsburgh (Noll).....(AFC).....35	Dallas (Landry).....(NFC).....31
XIV.....	Jan. 20, 1980	Pasadena	Pittsburgh (Noll).....(AFC).....31	Los Angeles (Malavasi).....(NFC).....19
XV.....	Jan. 25, 1981	New Orleans	Oakland (Flores).....(AFC).....27	Philadelphia (Vermil).....(NFC).....10

SUPER BOWL ACCUMULATIVE

Conferences and teams	Coaches
AFL-AFC.....	11-4 Noll.....4-0
NFL-NFC.....	4-11 Lombardi.....2-0
Pittsburgh.....	4-0 Ewbank.....1-0
Green Bay.....	2-0 McCafferty.....1-0
New York Jets.....	1-0 Madden.....1-0
Miami.....	2-1 Flores.....1-0
Oakland.....	2-1 Shula.....2-2
Kansas City.....	1-1 Stram.....1-1
Baltimore.....	1-1 Landry.....2-3
Dallas.....	2-3 Malavasi.....0-1
Los Angeles.....	0-1 Miller.....0-1
Washington.....	0-1 Rauch.....0-1
Denver.....	0-1 Allen.....0-1
Philadelphia.....	0-1 Vermeil.....0-1
Minnesota.....	0-4 Grant.....0-4



BY FRANK COONEY

Super Bowl XV was publicized as the game between the Burglars and the Boy Scouts, a team of characters against a team of character.

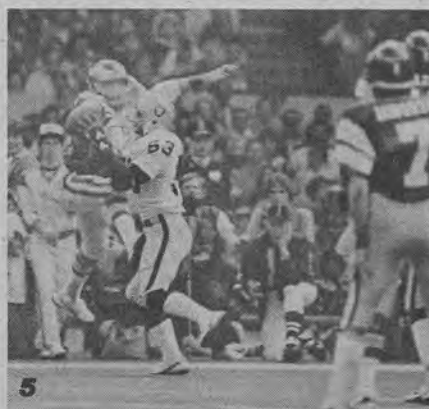
From the AFC there were the Oakland Raiders, a gang of recycled rejects, renegades, and, well, rounders. Their pre-season sentence called for incarceration in their division's dungeon, but they surprised everybody by gunning their way out of the Wild, Wild West and all the way to New Orleans.

From the NFC there were the Philadelphia Eagles, coach Dick Vermeil's hand-picked disciples of discipline, hard work, and more hard work. From the beginning their dedication was expected to be rewarded with a trip to the Superdome on Super Sunday.

But this American fairy tale did not have the usual Disney ending. As the final seconds ticked off, radio announcer Bill King told the story thus: "Ten, nine, eight, seven . . . The prince comes calling. Prince Pete Rozelle has a silver slipper, and the only man it fits is Al Davis. The Oakland Raiders are Super Bowl Champions."

Yes, the scoreboard showed the Raiders had indeed written their own ending for their Cinderella season with a 27-10 victory over the Eagles. And in the victors' locker room there stood pro football's odd couple, commissioner Pete Rozelle and Oakland managing general partner Al Davis, for the presentation of the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Yet these two bitter enemies respected the moment properly with nary a word about that nasty court case—Davis vs. Rozelle and the other 27 team owners—over the Raiders' desire to relocate in Los Angeles.

Still, this was an ironic situation because the playing rules Rozelle and the other 27 teams



1. Eagles' quarterback Ron Jaworski (#7) constantly is driven off balance and out of rhythm by raiding Oakland pass rushers, including John Matuszak (#72).

2. Eagles' Wilbert Montgomery (#31) gains eight yards on the game's first play, his longest pickup of the day.

3. Leroy Harris (#20) gets 3-yard first down on Eagles' second play of the game.

4. Early in the second quarter, Oakland's Lester Hayes (#37) breaks up Jaworski's 44-yard bomb into the end zone to Charlie Smith (#85).

5. Oakland's Rod Martin (#53) makes second of three interceptions, stepping in front of intended receiver John Spagnola (#88) at sideline in third quarter.

6. Oakland's Cliff Banch (#21) outfakes Herman Edwards (#46) and takes Plunkett's 2-yard TD pass before John Bunting (#95) can recover from having helped double-coverage on Chandler (out of picture). (Diagram No. 1)

7. Raiders' Kenny King (#33) gets flanking assistance from Bob Chandler (#85) on record-breaking 80-yard pass-and-run TD late in first quarter. Once past Herman Edwards' (#46) short zone, King had clear sailing. (Diagram No. 2)

passed during the previous three years—rules that promoted parity and passing—helped Davis construct the first wild card team to win a Super Bowl championship. Davis had always liked a bombs-away offense, but by the end of 1979, injuries and personnel had forced the Raiders to be a medium-range passing team working from a two-tight-end alignment.

"We are going to get back to throwing the ball deep," Davis warned only days before the team reported to its 1980 training camp in Santa Rosa. Davis already had made the necessary personnel arrangements, beginning with the March 15 trade that sent popular, medium-range sharpshooting quarterback Ken Stabler to Houston for strong-armed Dan Pastorini. Alas, Pastorini would be sidelined with an injury early in the season, allowing Jim Plunkett to come off the bench and become one of pro football's remembered quarterback, and the Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl itself.

But he was only one of a team full of players with something to prove. There was wide receiver Bob Chandler, a gift from Buffalo, and tight end Raymond Chester, who made All-Pro Dave Casper expendable. They would probe the vulnerable medium zones when the Raiders shot their bullet, wide receiver Cliff Branch, deep into the defense's heart.

Halfback Kenny King, a seldom-used sub with both the Oklahoma Sooners and Houston Oilers, would add even more vertical stretch to the receiving corps while teaming with fullback Mark van Eeghen to form a respectable running tandem.

But, the unit with the most to prove in this Super Bowl was the offensive line—tackles Art Shell and Henry Lawrence, guards Gene Upshaw and Mickey Marvin, and center Dave Dalby. In a 10-7 loss at Philadelphia on Nov. 23, they gave up eight sacks, including one that injured Plunkett so badly that after the season he required surgery on his left shoulder.

The Raiders had a short week of practice following a Monday night road game and were not ready for the unusual stunts Philadelphia

used. But the key to victory on Super Sunday was not only to be ready for such stunts—and the Raiders were—but also to avoid them altogether.

The Eagles, like the Raiders, used a 3-4 alignment as their base defense. In fact, this was the first Super Bowl to feature two teams with that base defense. The crucial irony was that the success of either defense could be measured by how often they were able to get away from that 3-4 and use a pirate or nickel setup with four rushers and five defensive backs. This was illustrated in their first meeting when the Eagles developed third-down-and-long situations often enough to force the nickel defense 30 times. Even on second and long, the Eagles took out All-Pro nose man Charlie Johnson and gigantic left end Dennis Harrison in favor of quicker middle man Ken Clarke and outside pass rush artist Claude Humphrey. In the first meeting the Eagles were able to do that 19 times.

If the pass-crazy offense Davis constructed was to show its stuff in the Super Bowl, the Eagles could not be allowed to use pass-oriented defense another 49 times. "In the Super Bowl, it was a must to avoid those second or third-and-long situations," Raider coach Tom Flores said. "The big key was to make the first down conversions, gains of at least four yards."

And the Raiders turned that key impressively to open the door to victory in Super Bowl XV. They converted 18 to 26 first down plays with gains of four yards or more. That included a whopping 13 of 17 on the ground, where van Eeghen, who finished with 80 yards in 19 carries, ran mostly inside to stay away from Philadelphia's talented outside linebackers, Jerry Robinson and John Bunting.

Such success on the first down stymied the Eagles' defensive game plan to the degree that they used that quarterback-crunching nickel defense only six times. This allowed Plunkett to stay in control and look for his receivers rather than for a safe place to hide. He helped his own health by completing five of nine passes on the first down. In all, he was

able to connect on 13 of 21 passes for 261 yards and all three touchdowns.

Likewise, the key to success for the Raider defense was to stop the first down runs of halfback Wilbert Montgomery, who had ruined Dallas in the NFC championship game with 194 yards on 26 carries, including a 42-yard touchdown gallop on his first carry. But in the Super Bowl, the Raiders allowed him only 44 yards total at a paltry rate of 2.8 per try.

So the Eagles converted only seven of 17 first down runs, and when they tested the air, it was even worse. Quarterback Ron Jaworski hit on only three of his 11 first down passes and had two others picked off by alert linebacker Rod Martin, who had three thefts in all and therefore probably deserved a share of the MVP honor.

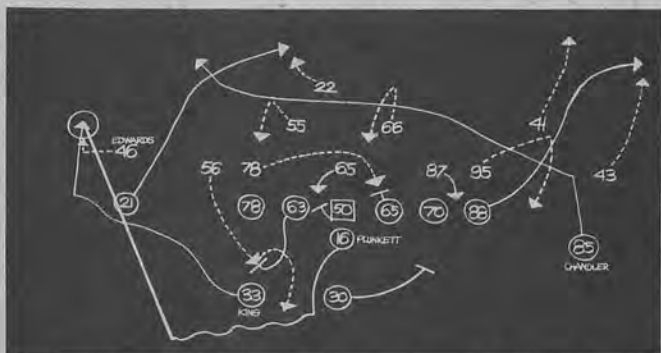
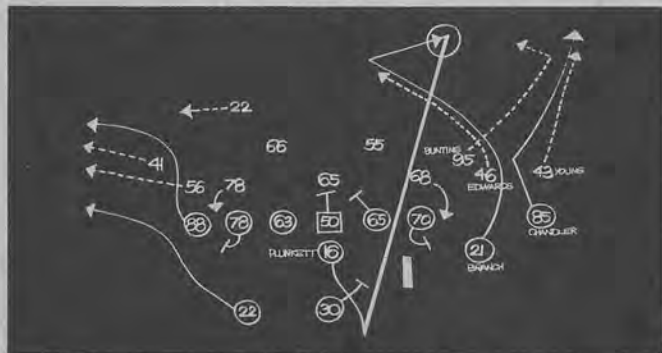
This allowed Oakland's defense to remain almost in total control. But that was not unlike the first meeting, when Philadelphia's only touchdown was set up by a long pass when the coverage man left the receiver because a sack was apparent. A similar miscue set up the Eagles' only touchdown in the Superdome when Jaworski ducked a blitz and hit wide receiver Charles Smith for Philadelphia's longest gain, 43 yards.

"Two missed sacks, two downfield mistakes, and two touchdown drives," lamented Raider defensive coach Chet Franklin. "Take away those two plays and Philadelphia doesn't score a touchdown in either game. I think our defense proved all season, and especially in the Super Bowl, that it has become one of the best in the league."

Still, like their offensive counterparts, the Raider defenders went into the 1980 season largely overlooked with plenty to prove.

Cornerback Lester Hayes, bumped, ran, and intercepted his way to All-Pro honors he probably deserved at least a year earlier. And Rams' castoff Dwayne O'Steen solidified the other corner spot. The safeties were Burgess Owens, stolen from the N. Y. Jets for a No. 6 draft choice, and Mike Davis, in his first full year as a starter.

Linebacker Ted Hendricks, who sat out



SUPER



passing downs the year before, was a roving terror against the pass, especially when he rushed in concert with end Cedrick Hardman, a 49er castoff. On the inside were linebackers Bob Nelson, a well-traveled former No. 2 draftee, and rookie Matt Millen, who was making the transition from college tackle. And, on the other outside spot, Martin, a twice waived former No. 12 draftee, was tested repeatedly as opposing offenses tried to stay away from Hendricks.

Up front, end Dave Browning teamed with Martin to stop the weakside runs; second-year middle guard Reggie Kinlaw looked much better than a 12th round draft choice, and left end John Matuszak was literally a tower (6'-8", 285 pounds) of strength on the field.

Off the field, he was something else again. If the common picture of a Raider is that of a fun-loving, loose-living, hell-raiser, then the Tooz is a caricature of that picture. Wednesday night, and most of Thursday morning, before the Super Bowl, the Tooz spent his fun-loving, loose-living, hell-raising time checking out Bourbon Street. In fact, most Raiders were visible at the many New Orleans night spots, although that was mostly earlier in the week and definitely earlier in the night. This contrasted greatly with the Eagles, who were kept busy with mandatory team meals, meetings, and films.

And, although both teams practiced hard, Vermeil even went a step farther by putting the Eagles through two workouts plus a photo session on Tuesday. Vermeil also said if Matuszak were on his team, he would have been on the next plane home after that Bourbon Street outing. "You can't treat a man like a boy all week, then expect him to perform like a man on Sunday," came Matuszak's reply.

Yet all criticism of either approach—loose-and-easy or para-military—had to be tempered by the fact that each coach remained faithful to the method that got him there. But the results of those opposite approaches already seemed to be evident even before the Super Bowl.

The Eagles began their high flying Super season with a 12-0 record, then limped into the playoffs with three losses in their last four games.

The Raiders improved all season, as might be expected of a team that featured nine new faces among its 22 starters. By the time they rolled into the playoffs, they were in overdrive and seemed to be getting better each week.

"Things were going so well that in our last two games we did not make any major mistakes," Flores said. "We had no turnovers and no penalties that hurt us. That's always a

sign of a team that is peaking. And we did it at the right time."

If that is so, then the Eagles certainly peaked sometime before the Super Bowl. They began that game with three mistakes in the first quarter—an interception, and penalties of offsides, and illegal motion—that combined to put them behind and keep them there.

The interception came on the third play of the game when the Eagles used two tight ends on a first and ten situation from their own 35. Despite those hours of practice, or perhaps because of them, Jaworski made a jittery, unconvincing play fake to Montgomery, then threw toward tight end Joe Spagnola on the left side. But it was Martin who was in the best position to make the catch. First, he had been unimpressed by the face handoff, and also he remembered from films that Jaworski liked to throw that pass from that formation. So Jaworski threw and Martin caught his first of a Super Bowl record three interceptions, returning this one 17 yards to the Philadelphia 30 yard line.

But three plays later, the Raiders were faced with one of those dreaded third and eight situations, and the Eagles had marched their pass-oriented, nickel defense onto the field. What happened next seemed accidental and incidental to the flow of this major event, but it was neither.

As Plunkett began to call signals, three Eagle linemen uncoiled out of their stances like springs that were too tightly wound, which indeed they may have been. The officials nailed the offsides call on right end Carl Hairston, who had been duped by a devious, but not uncommon play.

"I told Plunkett before the game to use the hard count the first time we got into a passing situation," offensive line coach Sam Bogoshian said.

"The snap was on three, but Jim used inflection to draw them off on one," center Dave Dalby explained. "Jim is good at that. He does it without moving a muscle. He just

changes his voice."

But even before the penalty was marched off, the Raiders saw several other things of major interest during that play.

"They tried one of their stunts on us, and although it was a little fouled up because Hairston was offsides, we saw that we could pick it up. We were using a combination man and area block technique with Upshaw attacking the man in front of him and everybody else taking care of an area."

In the first game, the Eagles used their biggest lineman, Harrison, to push back Upshaw so when the linemen on both sides of Harrison looped, the Raiders had problems picking them up. Twice Upshaw was so far back that he picked off Shell, his own teammate.

To solve this, Upshaw's task on Super Sunday was to attack that man in front of him almost as if it were a running play. The other linemen then simply dropped back, protected an area, and let the rushers come to them. And on this play, penalty or no, it was obvious the scheme worked.

It also was obvious to receiver coach Lew Erber that Chandler would cause problems on crossing patterns. "He was wide open, but Jim just didn't see him and threw an incomplete deep pass to King instead," Erber said.

So the Raiders gratefully noted all this, accepted the five yard penalty and watched happily as the Eagles' nickel defense left the field because it was now only third and three. Van Eeghen ran four yards for a first down. Then Plunkett, playing the odds against a 3-4 defense, threw 14 yards to Branch, who was an easy target because the defensive backs were hyperconscious of deep passes and were playing far off.

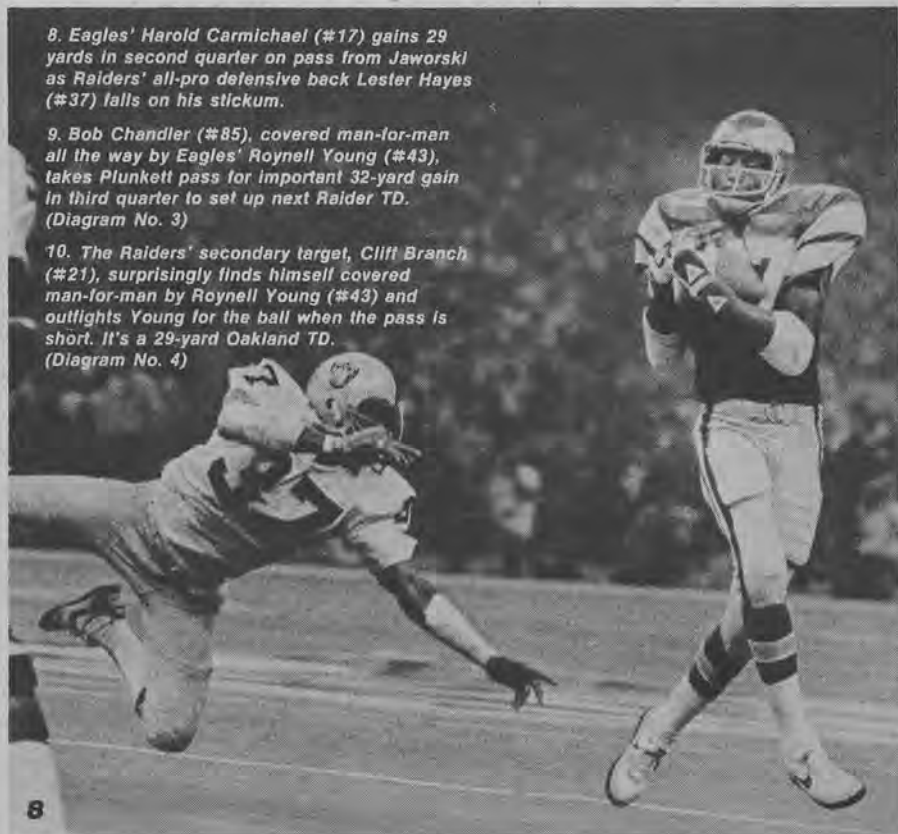
Two plays later the Raiders had a third and goal on the two. They lined up in their east formation, with Branch slotted inside of Chandler on the right. Their tendency in this situation was to run the speedy Branch across the field to the opposite corner of the end zone.

"We knew they would be thinking that, and we knew if we got Cliff in single coverage that

8. Eagles' Harold Carmichael (#17) gains 29 yards in second quarter on pass from Jaworski as Raiders' all-pro defensive back Lester Hayes (#37) falls on his stickum.

9. Bob Chandler (#85), covered man-for-man all the way by Eagles' Roynell Young (#43), takes Plunkett pass for important 32-yard gain in third quarter to set up next Raider TD. (Diagram No. 3)

10. The Raiders' secondary target, Cliff Branch (#21), surprisingly finds himself covered man-for-man by Roynell Young (#43) and outflights Young for the ball when the pass is short. It's a 29-yard Oakland TD. (Diagram No. 4)



we would score," Erber explained. "Only instead of sending Cliff to the opposite flag, we had him run what we called a 'flag hook' where he stopped abruptly and cut back."

Branch did indeed receive single coverage from cornerback Herman Edwards, while Chandler drew double coverage from corner Roynell Young and linebacker John Bunting in the right side of the end zone. (Diagram No. 1). Plunkett dropped back, influenced Bunting by looking first at Chandler, then threw to Branch for the touchdown.

Now it was time for the Eagles' next mistake. It came on a third and ten pass from Jaworski to Rodney Parker that would have been a 40-yard touchdown, but wide receiver Harold Carmichael had gone in motion and stepped upfield a split second too early. Illegal motion. Five yard penalty. No touchdown.

The intriguing aspect of that play was that the Eagles did not use such motion most of the season. But Carmichael had been bothered by tight coverage—and the Raiders cover tighter than anybody—and going in motion is a good way to get away from such coverage. But new plays also are invitations to mistakes, as the Eagles learned.

Now it was time for the Raiders to see if they could hit Chandler on one of those crossing patterns. The stage was set on a third and four at their own 20. Chandler was flanked right. Branch was split left, and King, the eventual star of this play, was poised on the left side of the backfield. The play called for Branch to run deep over the middle and King to go to the sidelines. This hopefully would leave a gap in the coverage about 15 yards downfield on the left side.

The Eagles had dropped into a zone with five men covering the short areas and the two safeties deep. Up front, Philadelphia tried a three-man stunt to get at Plunkett. Johnson, the nose man, rushed hard between center and left guard. Robinson, the outside right linebacker, blitzed. And Hairston, the left end, looped all the way behind Johnson hoping to find the blockers so confused or preoccupied

as to leave him freeway access to Plunkett.

But the Raiders were ready with their area blocking technique. Johnson found his rush stopped cold by Dalby and Shell. Upshaw went over and picked up Robinson, and Hairston found himself looping into a waiting wall in the form of right guard Mickey Marvin. (Diagram No. 2).

But when Plunkett looked to hit Chandler, he saw that his prime target was running through the middle of those five short zones and was attracting the attention of three linebackers—Bunting, Bill Bergey, and Frank LeMaster. Meanwhile on the left side, Edwards was properly situated in his short outside zone, covering King.

Then, Robinson got inside Upshaw and was able to get a hand on Plunkett, who began to scramble to his left. Bunting, Bergey, and LeMaster instinctively moved toward the running quarterback, leaving Chandler all alone. Edwards hesitated for only an instant, but that was long enough to allow King, now improvising like everybody else, to turn up the left sidelines.

Plunkett was no longer looking at Chandler, although the prime target was now wide open. Instead, the pass was lofted just over Edwards to King, who outran everyone to complete a Super Bowl record 80-yard touchdown.

The Eagles opened the second quarter with a 30-yard field goal by Tony Franklin, making it 14-3, but that was to be all the Eagles made in the first half except more mistakes: a 15 yard clipping penalty on a punt return, Jaworski's overthrown pass to Parker in the end zone and, finally, poor blocking and a low kick on a 28-yard field goal attempt that was blocked by Hendricks.

"That blocked field goal was critical because it prevented them from getting that little psychological lift at half time," Flores said. "Then we came out and scored on our first drive in the third quarter and that really put the game away."

It was a drive that capsulized the Raider season itself even as it locked up the Super

Bowl championship. It began with a 10-yard penalty, pushing the Raiders back to their own 14 yard line. But just as they had come a long way during the season, they would go a long way on that drive—all the way.

After an eight-yard run by van Eeghen and a 13-yard pass to King, Plunkett finally connected with Chandler on one of those crossing patterns. A perfect pass and a great, leaping catch netted 32 yards to the Philadelphia 33. (Diagram No. 3). After van Eeghen added another four yards, the Raiders were poised for the kill.

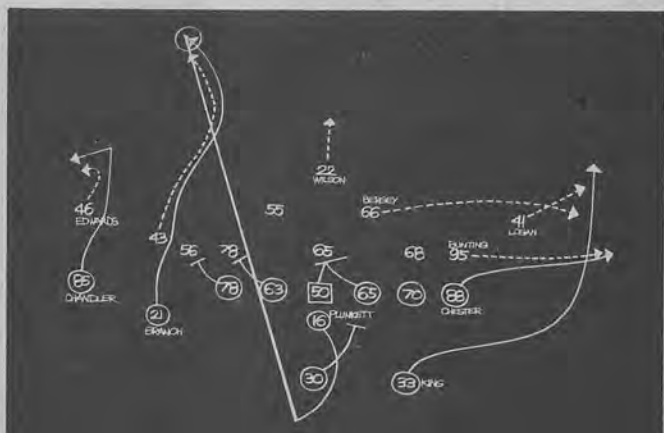
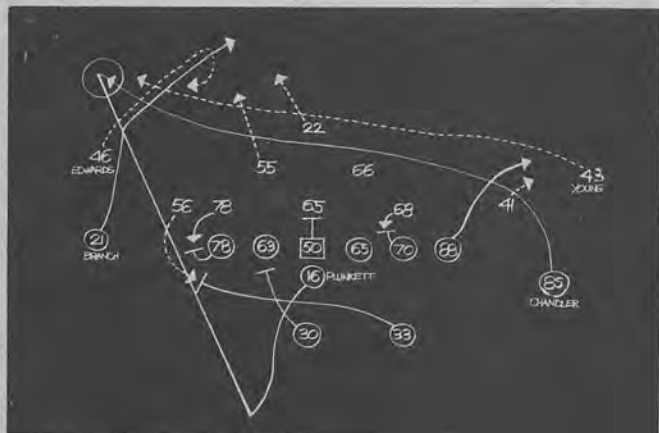
Again they lined up in the east formation, only this time Branch was slotted inside Chandler on the left side. And again, as in the first touchdown, Branch managed to draw single, albeit great, coverage.

The play was really designed to hit King dashing down the right side, but he was picked up by Randy Logan, the strong safety, rather than Bunting, the linebacker who covered Chester. So Plunkett looked back to the left, where Chandler busied Edwards with a comeback on the sideline. Since Wilson, the safety, dropped to the deep middle, Young was left with the unenviable task of covering Branch in a footrace to the left corner.

Young not only covered well, but when Plunkett underthrew the pass, the rookie was in better position than Branch for the catch. But as the ball fluttered down, Branch came back, stepped in front and stole the ball. (Diagram No. 4).

There would be more memorable moments that day, like another two interceptions by Martin, a couple of field goals by Oakland's Chris Bahr, and even a Philadelphia touchdown pass from Jaworski to tight end Keith Kreple.

But that touchdown by Branch really ended the game and the Raiders' fairy tale season. Never mind that they had an unusual cast of characters, they had indeed played out an unforgettable Cinderella story and deserved the Super Bowl XV championship. After all, if the slipper fits . . .



SUPER BOWL XV



TEAM STATISTICS

First Downs—Rushing—Passing—Penalty	Oakl. 6-10-1
Total First Downs	17
Third Down Efficiency	6-12-50%
Total Net Yards	377
Total Offensive Plays	56
Average Gain Per Offensive Play	6.7
Net Yards Rushing	117
Total Rushing Plays	34
Average Gain Per Rushing Play	3.4
Net Yards Passing	260
Times Thrown—Yards Lost Attempting To Pass	1-1
Gross Yards Passing	261
Pass Attempts—Completions—Interceptions	21-13-0
Average Gain Per Pass Play	12.4
Punts—Number—Average	3-42.0
Punts Blocked	0
Total Return Yardage	93
Punt Returns—Number—Yards	2-1
Kickoff Returns—Number—Yards	3-48
Interception Returns—Number—Yards	3-44
Penalties—Number—Yards	5-37
Fumbles—Number—Lost	0-0
Touchdowns—Rushing—Passing—Returns—Total	3-0-0-3
Field Goals—Made—Attempts	2-3
Points After Touchdown—Made—Attempts	3-3
Time Of Possession	29:47

Phil. 3-14-2
19
6-13-46%
360
64
5.6
69
26
2.7
291
0-0
291
38-18-3
7.7
3-36.7
0
107
3-20
6-87
0-0
6-57
1-1
0-1-0-1
1-2
1-1
30:13

GAME SUMMARY

Date: January 25, 1981, 5:16 P.M., CST
OAKLAND RAIDERS (AFC-Visitors) vs. **PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** (NFC-Home team).
 Site: New Orleans, LA. (Superdome)
 Weather: Indoors 72°
 Wind: None
 Referee: Don Dreith (12). Umpire: Frank Sinkovitz (20). Line Judge: Tom Dooley (7). Head Linesman: Tony Veteri (7). Back Judge: Tom Kelleher (7). Field Judge: Fritz Graf (7). Side Judge: Dean Look (9).

LINEUPS

OAKLAND RAIDERS

OFFENSE:

WR	21	Cliff Branch
LT	78	Art Shell
LG	63	Gene Upshaw
C	50	Dave Dalby
RG	65	Mickey Marvin
RT	70	Henry Lawrence
TE	88	Ray Chester
WR	85	Bob Chandler
QB	16	Jim Plunkett
RB	30	Mark van Eeghen
RB	33	Kenny King

DEFENSE:

LE	72	John Matuszak
MG	62	Reggie Kinlaw
RE	73	Dave Browning
LLB	83	Ted Hendricks
LILB	55	Matt Millen
RILB	51	Bob Nelson
RLB	53	Rod Martin
LCB	37	Lester Hayes
RCB	35	Dwayne O'Steen
SS	36	Mike Davis
FS	44	Burgess Owens

SUBS: Guy, Bahr, Whittington, McKinney, Moody, Jensen, Jackson, Matthews, Christensen, Celotto, Barnes, McClanahan, Pear, Campbell, B. Davis, Bradshaw, Ramsey, Hardman, Martini, Jones, Mason, Sylvester. DID NOT PLAY: M. Wilson.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

OFFENSE:

WR	17	Harold Carmichael
LT	75	Stan Walters
LG	62	Pete Perot
C	50	Guy Morriss
RG	69	Woody Peoples
RT	76	Jerry Sisemore
TE	84	Keith Kreple
WR	88	John Spagnola
QB	7	Ron Jaworski
RB	31	Wilbert Montgomery
RB	20	Leroy Harris

DEFENSE:

LE	68	Dennis Harrison
MG	65	Charlie Johnson
RE	78	Carl Hairston
LLB	95	John Bunting
LILB	66	Bill Bergey
RILB	55	Frank LeMaster
RLB	56	Jerry Robinson
LCB	43	Royell Young
RCB	46	Herman Edwards
SS	41	Randy Logan
FS	22	Brenard Wilson

SUBS: Runager, Sciarra, Blackmore, Giammona, Harrington, Campfield, Wilkes, Phillips, Chesley, Slater, Baker, Clarke, Kenney, Smith, Humphrey, Henderson, Parker, Franklin, Brown, Henry. DID NOT PLAY: Pisarcik, Hertel, Torrey.

OAKLAND

RUSHING	Att.	NYG	Avg.	LG	TD
van Eeghen	18	75	4.2	8	0
King	6	18	3.0	6	0
Plunkett	3	9	3.0	5	0
Whittington	3	-2	-0.7	2	0
Jensen	4	17	4.3	6	0
	34	117	3.4	8	0

PASSING	Att.	PC	Yds.	T/Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
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Plunkett	21	13	261	1/1	3	80	0
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RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
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Branch	5	67	29	2
King	2	93	80	1
Chandler	4	77	32	0
Chester	2	24	16	0
	13	261	80	3

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
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Martin	3	44	25	0
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PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
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Guy	3	126	42.0	0	1	44
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PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
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Matthews	2	1	1	2	0
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KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
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Moody	1	19	19	0
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Matthews	2	29	21	0
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	3	48	21	0
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FUMBLES	No.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD	Opp. Rec.	Yds.	TD	OOR
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Jones	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
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PHILADELPHIA

RUSHING	Att.	NYG	Avg.	LG	TD
Montgomery	16	44	2.8	8	0
Harris	7	14	2.0	5	0
Harrington	1	4	4.0	4	0
Giammona	1	7	7.0	7	0
Jaworski	1	0	0.0	0	0
	26	69	2.7	8	0

PASSING	Att.	PC	Yds.	T/Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
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Jaworski	38	18	291	0/0	1	43	3
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RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
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Kreple	2	16	8	1
Montgomery	6	91	25	0
Harris	1	1	1	0
Spagnola	1	22	22	0
Carmichael	5	83	29	0
Smith	2	59	43	0
Parker	1	19	19	0
	18	291	43	1

INTERCEPTIONS—None

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	Lg.
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Runager	3	110	36.7	0	1	46
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PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Lg.	TD
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Sciarra	2	0	18	12	0
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Henry	1	0	2	2	0
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	3	0	20	12	0
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KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Lg.	TD
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Campfield	5	87	21	0
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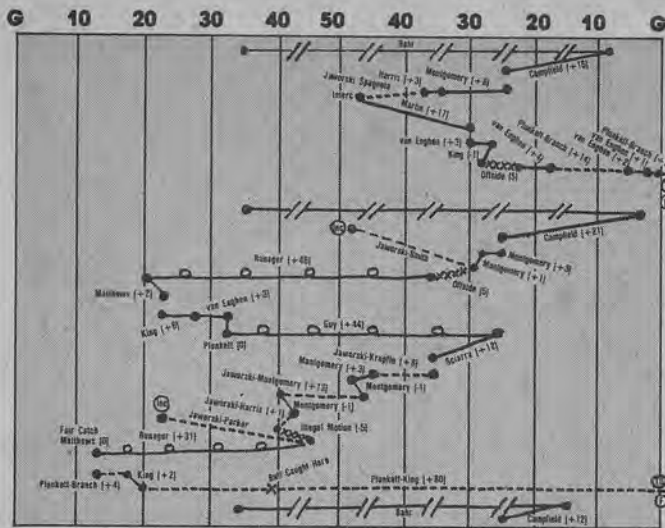
Harrington	1	0	0	0
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	6	87	21	0
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FUMBLES	No.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD	Opp. Rec.	Yds.	TD	OOR
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Jaworski	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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OAKLAND	14..	0..	10..3	-	27
PHILADELPHIA	0..	3..	0..7	-	10



KEY TO CHART
 Dash, Return
 Inc. Incomplete
 F First Down
 Int. Interception
 Fc Fumble
 K Kickoff
 FG Field Goal
 L Loose Ball
 Rec Recovery
 P Penalty
 Punt

KEY
 Inc. Incomplete
 KO Kickoff
 R Run
 P Pass
 * Touchdown
 T Tackle
 FD First Down
 EZ End Zone
 PAT Point After Touchdown
 PU Punt
 FG Field Goal

FIRST QUARTER

Bahr (Oakland) KO to P8. Campfield returns (+16) (McKinney T).

Philadelphia (14:52)

1st and 10 on P24 R: Montgomery, LE, (+8) (Owens T).
 2nd and 2 on P32 R: Harris, middle, (+3). (Hendricks T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P35 P: Jaworski to Spagnola. Intercepted by Martin at P47, returned, (+17), (Montgomery T).

Oakland (13:13)

1st and 10 on P30 R: van Eeghen at RG, (+3). (Bergey T).
 2nd and 7 on P27 R: King, right, (-1). (Harrison T).
 3rd and 8 on P28 P: Plunkett to King, Inc. (Robinson defending). Penalty: Phil. offside (Hairston) (5).
 3rd and 3 on P23 R: van Eeghen, right, (+4). (Johnson T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P19 P: Plunkett to Branch (at P14), (+14). (LeMaster T). FD.
 1st and goal on P5 R: van Eeghen, right (+2). (Johnson T).
 2nd and goal on P3 R: van Eeghen at RT, (+1). (Logan T).
 3rd and goal on P2 *P: Plunkett to Branch (in EZ), (+2). (Bunting, Edwards defending). (Elapsed time 6:04).
 PAT: Bahr (Chandler holding).

Score: Oakland 7, Philadelphia 0.

Bahr KO to P4. Campfield returns to P25 (+21) (Jensen T).

Philadelphia (8:48)

1st and 10 on P25 R: Montgomery, left, (+3). (Martin T).
 2nd and 7 on P28 R: Montgomery, left, (+1). (Browning T).
 3rd and 6 on P29 P: Jaworski scrambles right, to Smith, Inc. (Hayes defending).
 4th and 6 on P29 PU: Runager attempts. Penalty: Oakland, offside (5) (Barnes).
 4th and 1 on P34 PU: Runager to O20 (+46). Matthews returns to O22 (+2). (Robinson T).

Oakland (7:06)

1st and 10 on O22 R: King sweeps left, (+6). (Robinson, B. Wilson defending).
 2nd and 4 on O28 R: van Eeghen, right, (+3). (Logan T).
 3rd and 1 on O31 R: Plunkett, middle, (0). (Bergey T). Penalty: Oakl. illegal procedure (late snap) refused by Phil.
 4th and 1 on O31 PU: Guy to P25, (+44). Sciarra returns to P37, (+12). (Campbell T).

Philadelphia (5:28)

1st and 10 on P37 P: Jaworski to Krepfle (at P41) (+8). (Owens T).

2nd and 2 on P45 R: Montgomery, middle, (+3). (Millen, Matuszak defending). FD.
 1st and 10 on P48 R: Montgomery, sweeps left, (-1). (Hendricks T).
 2nd and 11 on P47 P: Jaworski to Montgomery, screen right at P40, (+13). (Kinlaw T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O40 R: Montgomery, left, (-1). (Browning T).
 2nd and 11 on O41 P: Jaworski to Harris (at 50) (+1). (Martin T).
 3rd and 10 at O40 P: Jaworski to Parker (in EZ). Penalty: Phil illegal motion (-5) (Carmichael).
 3rd and 15 on O45 P: Jaworski to Parker, middle, Inc. (McKinney defending).
 4th and 15 on O45 PU: Runager to O14. Fair catch by Matthews.

Oakland (1:06)

1st and 10 on O14 P: Plunkett to Branch (at O18), left, (+4). (Edwards T).
 2nd and 6 on O18 R: King, right, (+2). (Humphrey T).
 3rd and 4 on O20 *P: Plunkett to King (at O39) left side (+80). (Elapsed time: 14:51).
 PAT: Bahr (Chandler holding).

Score: Oakland 14, Philadelphia 0.
 Bahr KO to P14. Campfield returns to P26 (+12) (McKinney T).

SECOND QUARTER

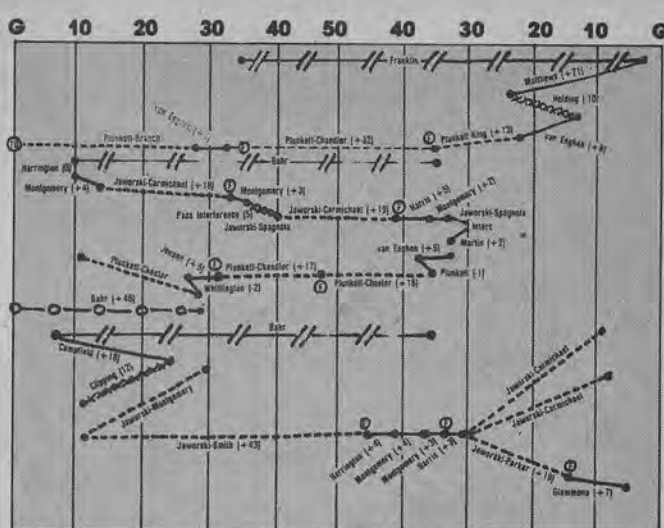
Philadelphia (15:00)

1st and 10 on P26 R: Montgomery, left, (+8). (M. Davis T).
 2nd and 2 on P34 R: Harris, left, (0). (Kinlaw T).
 3rd and 2 on P34 P: Jaworski to Spagnola (at P39), left, (+22). (M. Davis T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O44 P: Jaworski to Smith (in right EZ) broken up, Inc. (Hayes defending).
 2nd and 10 on O44 P: Jaworski to Montgomery (at O24), middle, (+25). (Owens T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O19 R: Montgomery at LE (+5) (Browning T; Browning injured).
 2nd and 5 on O14 R: Harris, left, (+1). (Pear T).
 3rd and 4 on O13 P: Jaworski to Montgomery, scrambles, Inc. (Millen defending).
 4th and 4 on O13 FG: Franklin (Sciarra holding) (+30). (Elapsed Time: 4:32)

Score: Oakland 14, Philadelphia 3

Franklin (Phil.) KO to O1. Moody returns to O20 (+19) (Baker T) (Moody injured).

1st and 10 on O20 P: Plunkett to Chandler, long to right, overthrown. (Young defending).
 2nd and 10 on O20 R: Whittington; right, (-2). (LeMaster T).
 3rd and 12 on O18 R: Plunkett scrambles up middle (+5). (Clarke T).
 4th and 7 on O23 PU: Guy to P35, (+42). Sciarra returns to P41, (+6) (Barnes T). Penalty: Phil. clipping (-15) (Baker).
 1st and 10 on P26 P: Jaworski to Carmichael (at P24), screen left, (+3). (Nelson T).



2nd and 7 on P29 P: Jaworski to Montgomery left, Inc. (M. Davis defending).
 3rd and 7 on P29 P: Jaworski to Campfield, left flat, Inc. (Browning defending).
 4th and 7 on P29 PU: Runager to O38, (+33). Matthews returns to O37, (-1) (Sciarra T).

Oakland (7:23)

1st and 10 on O37 R: van Eeghen, right, (+6). (Johnson T).
 2nd and 4 on O43 R: van Eeghen, right, (+4). (Johnson T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O47 P: Plunkett to King, middle, Inc. (B. Wilson defending).
 2nd and 10 on O47 P: Plunkett to Branch (at P35), left, (+18). (Edwards T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P35 King at RT (+4). (Logan T).
 2nd and 6 on P31 P: Plunkett to Branch, left, broken up, Inc. (Edwards defending).
 3rd and 6 on P31 Plunkett scrambles left, (+4). (Robinson, Clarke T).
 4th and 2 on P27 FG attempt: Bahr (Chandler holding) (+45, but short and to the right).

Philadelphia (3:34)

1st and 10 on P27 R: Montgomery, sweep to right, (0). (Millen T).
 2nd and 10 on P27 P: Jaworski to Carmichael, middle, almost intercepted. (Owens defending).
 3rd and 10 on P27 P: Jaworski to Carmichael (at P39), (+29). (Owens T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O44 R: Harris, left, (+3). (Millen T). (2:00)

TIME OUT (PHILADELPHIA #1)

2nd and 7 on O41 P: Jaworski to Carmichael (at O27), right, (+14). (Hayes T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O27 P: Jaworski, right, out of bounds, Inc.
 2nd and 10 on O27 P: Jaworski, thrown away, Inc. (pressure by Nelson).
 3rd and 10 on O27 P: Jaworski to Montgomery (at O35), (+16). (Owens T). FD. Penalty: Oakl. offside (Jones), refused.

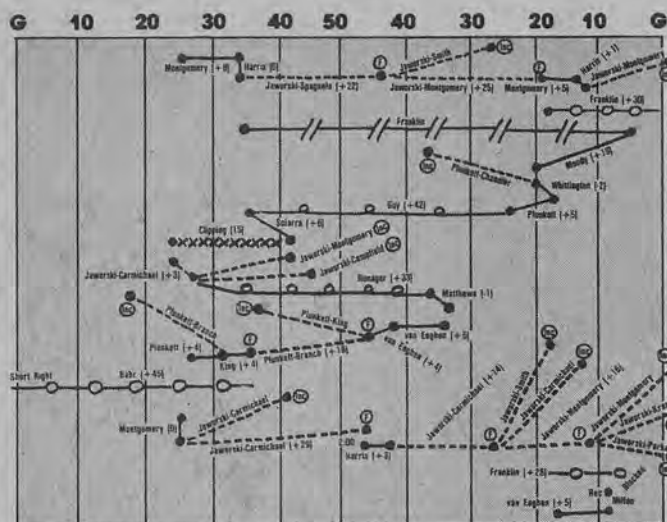
TIME OUT (PHILADELPHIA #2)

1st and 10 on O11 P: Jaworski to Montgomery (in right EZ), overthrown, Inc. (Hendricks defending).
 2nd and 10 on O11 P: Jaworski to Krepfle, middle, broken up, Inc. (Hendricks defending).
 3rd and 10 on O11 P: Jaworski to Parker (in left EZ), overthrown, Inc. (McKinney defending).
 4th and 10 on O11 FG attempt: Franklin (Sciarra holding). Blocked by Hendricks; recovered by Oakland (Millen) at O14.

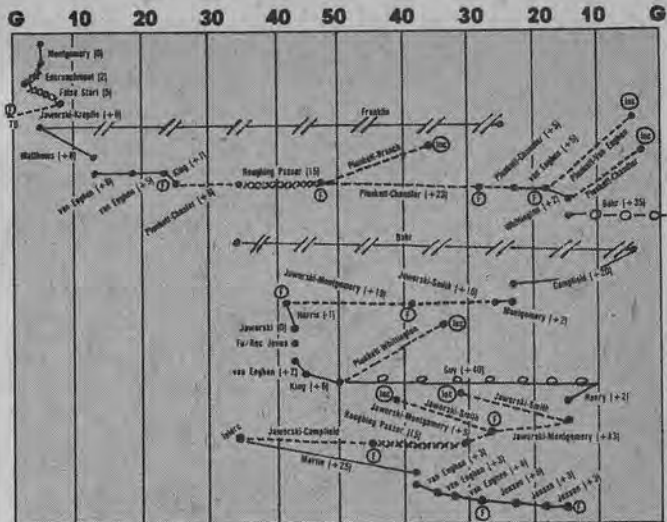
Oakland (0:43)

1st and 10 on O14 R: van Eeghen, right, (+5). (LeMaster T).

HALFTIME SCORE: OAKLAND 14, PHILADELPHIA 3.



KEY TO CHART
 — Act. Return
 --- Pass
 Inc. Incomplete
 F First Down
 Interc. Interception
 P. Fumble
 K. Kickoff
 FG Field Goal
 L. Loose Ball
 Rec. Recovery
 X/PD Penalty
 P. Punt



THIRD QUARTER

Franklin KO to O3. Matthews returns to O24 (+21) (Giammona T).

Oakland (14:52)

- 1st and 10 on O24 R: King, sweep right, (-3). (LeMaster T). Penalty: Oakl. holding (Lawrence) (-10).
 1st and 20 on O14 R: van Eeghen, left, (+8). (Bergey T).
 2nd and 12 on O22 P: Plunkett to King (at O14) right, (+13). (Hairston T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O35 P: Plunkett to Chandler (at P25), deep left, (+32). (Young T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P33 R: van Eeghen, right, (+4). (Bunting, Harrison T).
 2nd and 6 on P29 *P: Plunkett to Branch (at P1) deep left, (+29). (Young defending). (Elapsed Time: 2:36)
 PAT: Bahr (Chandler holding).

Score: Oakland 21, Philadelphia 3.
 Bahr KO to P10, knocked out of bounds by Harrington.

Philadelphia (12:18)

- 1st and 10 on P10 R: Montgomery, left, (+4). (Nelson T).
 2nd and 6 on P14 P: Jaworski to Carmichael (at P30), (+18). (O'Steen T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P32 R: Montgomery at LE (+3). (Martin T).
 2nd and 7 on P35 P: Jaworski to Spagnola right, Inc. (Millen defending). Penalty: Oakl. pass interference (Millen) (5). FD.
 1st and 10 on P40 P: Jaworski to Carmichael (at O41), middle, (+19). (Owens T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O41 R: Harris, sweep left, out of bounds, (+5). (Martin T).
 2nd and 5 on O36 R: Montgomery, middle, (+2). (Kinlaw T).
 3rd and 3 on O34 P: Jaworski to Spagnola left; intercepted by Martin at O30, returns and falls out of bounds (+2).

Oakland (8:20)

- 1st and 10 on O32 R: van Eeghen, right, (+5). (Hairston T) (Hairston injured).
 2nd and 5 on O37 R: Plunkett, scrambling right, sacked, (-1). (Johnson T).
 3rd and 6 on O36 P: Plunkett to Chester (at O43), right, (+16). (Edwards T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P48 P: Plunkett to Chandler (at P31), right, (+17). (Young T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P31 R: Jensen, left, (+5). (Robinson T).
 2nd and 5 on P26 R: Whittington at RE, (-2). (Humphrey T).
 3rd and 7 on P28 P: Plunkett to Chester, left, Inc. (Young defending). FG: Bahr (Chandler holding) (+46). (Elapsed Time: 10:25)

Score: Oakland 24, Philadelphia 3.
 Bahr KO to P6. Campfield returns to P39 (+33). (Bahr). Penalty: Phil. (Phillips) clipping at P24, half the distance (12) to P12.

Philadelphia (4:25)

- 1st and 10 on P12 P: Jaworski to Montgomery, deep right, overthrown, Inc. (M. Davis defending).

- 2nd and 10 on P12 P: Jaworski to Smith (at O48), right sideline, (+43). (Hayes T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O45 R: Harrington, sweep left, (+4). (Browning T).
 2nd and 6 on O41 R: Montgomery at LE, (+4). (Millen T).
 3rd and 2 on O37 R: Montgomery, left, (+3). (Nelson, Pear T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O34 R: Harris, left, (+3). (Nelson T).
 2nd and 7 on O31 P: Jaworski to Carmichael, thrown under rush, Inc. (Pear defending).
 3rd and 7 on O31 P: Jaworski to Carmichael middle, dropped, Inc. (O'Steen defending).
 4th and 7 on O31 P: Jaworski to Parker (at O15), middle, (+19). (Owens T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O12 R: Giammona at LE, (+7). (O'Steen T).

Score: Oakland 24, Philadelphia 3.

FOURTH QUARTER

- 2nd and 3 on O5 R: Montgomery, sweep left, (0). (M. Davis T).
 3rd and 3 on O5 R: Montgomery, sweep left, (+2). (Owens T). Penalty: Oakl. lined up in neutral zone (Hayes), half the distance (2).
 3rd and 1 on O3 Penalty: Phil. false start, (Morris) (-5).
 3rd and 6 on O8 *P: Jaworski to Krepfle (in EZ), (+8). (Hayes defending). (Elapsed Time: 1:01)

TIME OUT (OAKLAND #1)

PAT: Franklin (Sciarrha holding).

Score: Oakland 24, Philadelphia 10.
 Franklin KO to O3. Matthews returns to O11 (+8). (Giammona T).

Oakland (13:48)

- 1st and 10 on O11 R: van Eeghen, left, (+8). (B. Wilson).
 2nd and 2 on O19 R: van Eeghen, left, (+5). (Edwards T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O24 R: King, middle, (+1). (Johnson T).
 2nd and 9 on O25 P: Plunkett to Chester (at O33), right, (+8). (Bergey T). Penalty: Phil. roughing the passer (Humphrey) (15). FD.
 1st and 10 on O48 P: Plunkett to Branch, long to right, broken up, Inc. (Edwards defending).
 2nd and 10 on O48 P: Plunkett to Chandler (at P35), middle, (+23). (Young T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P29 P: Plunkett to Chandler (at P24), right, (+5). (Young T).
 2nd and 5 on P24 R: van Eeghen at RT, (+5). (Harrison T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P19 P: Plunkett to van Eeghen right, short, Inc. (Bergey defending).
 2nd and 10 on P19 R: Whittington, right, (+2). (Bunting T).

- 3rd and 8 on P17 P: Plunkett to Chandler (in EZ), left, broken up, Inc. (Edwards defending).
 4th and 8 on P17 FG: Bahr (Chandler holding), (+35). (Elapsed Time: 6:31).

Score: Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10.
 Bahr KO to P2. Campfield returns to P22 (+20). (Campbell T). (Campbell injured).

Philadelphia (8:19)

- 1st and 10 on P22 R: Montgomery, on delayed toss, sweep right, (+2). (Hendricks T).
 2nd and 8 on P24 P: Jaworski to Smith (at P40), right, (+16). (Hayes T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P40 P: Jaworski to Montgomery (at O41), middle, (+19). (M. Davis T). FD.
 1st and 10 on O41 R: Harris, left, (-1). (Martin T).
 2nd and 11 on O42 Snap: Jaworski, fumbled, recovered by Oakl. (Jones) at O42.

Oakland (5:30)

- 1st and 10 on O42 R: van Eeghen, right, (+2). (Johnson T).
 2nd and 8 on O44 R: King, sweep left, (+6). (Robinson T).
 3rd and 2 on 50 P: Plunkett to Whittington, right, dropped, Inc. (LeMaster defending).
 4th and 2 on 50 PU: Guy to P10, (+40). Henry returns to P12, (+2). (Barnes T).

Philadelphia (3:51)

- 1st and 10 on P12 P: Jaworski to Smith, deep left, dropped, Inc. (O'Steen defending).
 2nd and 10 on P12 P: Jaworski to Montgomery (at P19), right, (+13). (Millen T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P25 **TIME OUT (PHILADELPHIA #1)**
 P: Jaworski, deflected at the line, Inc.
 2nd and 10 on P25 P: Jaworski to Montgomery (at P30), right, (+5). (McKinney T).
 3rd and 5 on P30 P: Jaworski to Carmichael left, Inc. (Martin defending). Penalty: Oakl. roughing the passer (Jones) (15). FD.
 1st and 10 on P45 P: Jaworski to Campfield (at O37) middle, intercepted by Martin, returned to P38, (+25). (Campbell T).

Oakland (2:50)

- 1st and 10 on P38 R: van Eeghen, middle, (+3). (Hairston T).
TIME OUT (PHILADELPHIA #2)
 2nd and 7 on P35 R: van Eeghen, right, (+3). (Bunting T).
 3rd and 4 on P32 R: van Eeghen, left, (+4). (LeMaster T). FD.
 1st and 10 on P28 R: Jensen, sweep left, (2:00) (+6). (Bergey T).
 2nd and 4 on P22 R: Jensen, right, (+3). (Bergey T).
 3rd and 1 on P19 R: Jensen, middle, (+3). (Humphrey T). FD. (0:40)

FINAL SCORE: OAKLAND 27, PHILADELPHIA 10

PRO FOOTBALL QUIZ



Every answer to the following questions can be found on the previous 126 pages. However, if you want to cheat, or just want to confirm your answers, you'll find them all on page 128.

- 1) **The 1981 inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at Canton, Ohio, are**
 - A—Red Badgro, George Blanda, Willie Davis, and Jim Ringo.
 - B—Red Badgro, George Blanda, Merlin Olsen, and Jim Ringo.
 - C—Red Badgro, Willie Davis, Merlin Olsen, and Jim Ringo.
 - D—George Blanda, Willie Davis, Merlin Olsen, and Jim Ringo.
- 2) **The three 1980 NFL teams with the lowest maturity factors were the**
 - A—New York Jets, Kansas City Chiefs, and New York Giants.
 - B—Kansas City Chiefs, New York Giants, and Seattle Seahawks.
 - C—New York Giants, Seattle Seahawks, and New York Jets.
 - D—Seattle Seahawks, New York Jets, and Kansas City Chiefs.
- 3) **It required a tie-breaking procedure to establish 1980 division winner in the**
 - A—AFC-Western Division.
 - B—AFC-Western and NFC-Central divisions.
 - C—AFC-Western, NFC-Central, and NFC-Eastern divisions.
 - D—AFC-Western, NFC-Central, NFC-Eastern, and AFC-Central divisions.
- 4) **Former NFL head coach Sid Gillman often has entertained his friends by**
 - A—Inviting them to his lodge on the Edisto River.
 - B—Showing them his lavish model railroad layout.
 - C—Playing the piano.
 - D—Taking them for rides in one of his matched pair of 1937 Supercharger Auburns.
- 5) **Before he became a Baltimore Colt, Johnny Unitas failed in football tryouts with**
 - A—Indiana University, Notre Dame, and the Hamilton Tiger Cats.
 - B—Indiana University, Notre Dame, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
 - C—Indiana University, the Hamilton Tiger Cats, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
 - D—Notre Dame, the Hamilton Tiger Cats, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
- 6) **One of the NFL rules changes being installed this year will**
 - A—Eliminate the referee's use of the microphone and transmitter except to amplify his whistle.
 - B—Eliminate the use of "stickum" on the hands of the potential receivers and interceptors.
 - C—Force all barefooted place-kickers to use shoes from outside the 35-yard line.
 - D—Force the Giants to change linebacker Brad Van Pelt's jersey number 10, which has been illegal for eight years.
- 7) **The Green Bay Packers selected their nickname because in 1919 they were sponsored by**
 - A—Billy Packer, Inc.
 - B—Indian Packing Co.
 - C—Packard Motor Car Co.
 - D—Wings Cigarettes.
- 8) **The captain of the Chicago Bears, on the day they won the NFL title with a 73-0 win over the Redskins, is now**
 - A—Dr. Daniel J. Fortmann.
 - B—Dr. William McColl.
 - C—Dr. David Middleton.
 - D—Dr. Frank Ryan.
- 9) **Philadelphia Eagle Bill Bergey and his wife Micky met**
 - A—In a line to buy tickets for a helicopter ride to Mt. Rushmore.
 - B—At a neighborhood coffee for a political candidate in Kentucky.
 - C—In a square dancing class at Arkansas State University.
 - D—On a roller coaster ride at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- 10) **In our annual "Reader Picks" competition involving the 1980 season, the winning ballot correctly picked _____ of the 10 teams to make the playoffs.**
 - A—10
 - B—9
 - C—8
 - D—7
- 11) **The highest number of points ever scored by one man in an NFL game is 40, a mark set by**
 - A—Bru Boineau in 1930.
 - B—Johnny Hickman in 1941.
 - C—Don Hutson in 1940.
 - D—Ernie Nevers in 1929.
- 12) **Among the 10 NFL playoff teams in 1980, the lowest maturity factor belonged to**
 - A—Atlanta.
 - B—Buffalo.
 - C—Cincinnati.
 - D—Dallas.
- 13) **In 1923, George Halas set an NFL record which was not broken until 1972. It was the**
 - A—Longest TD scored on a fumble return (98 yards).
 - B—Most forward passes caught in one game (18).
 - C—Most yards gained in one game on lateral passes (47).
 - D—Most yards penalized in a single game for arguing with the referee (90).
- 14) **The first coast-to-coast broadcast of an NFL Thanksgiving Day game was**
 - A—November 24, 1927—Green Bay and the Chicago Cardinals.
 - B—November 29, 1934—Chicago Bears and Detroit.
 - C—November 29, 1945—Cleveland and Philadelphia.
 - D—November 29, 1962—Detroit and Green Bay.
- 15) **According to our 1981 Easy/Tough schedule chart, the five teams with the easiest schedules, in order, are**
 - A—New York Giants, New York Jets, Green Bay, Atlanta, and Philadelphia.
 - B—New York Jets, Green Bay, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles.
 - C—Green Bay, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and New York Giants.
 - D—Atlanta, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New York Giants, and New York Jets.
- 16) **In a 1972 game, two NFL QBs opposing each other passed for a total of 872 yards between them. They were**
 - A—Johnny Unitas and Fran Tarkenton.
 - B—Fran Tarkenton and Roman Gabriel.
 - C—Roman Gabriel and Joe Namath.
 - D—Joe Namath and Johnny Unitas.
- 17) **The architect and designer of the American Football League, Lamar Hunt, had been a reserve end at**
 - A—Catholic University.
 - B—Presbyterian College.
 - C—Southern Methodist.
 - D—Texas Christian.
- 18) **Petersen's Pro Football Annual says the most unforgettable NFL fan is**
 - A—Chuck Cline, an auto service manager in Los Angeles, California.
 - B—Randy Dummer, an airline official in Denver, Colorado.
 - C—J. P. McCarthy, a radio personality at WJR, Detroit, Michigan.
 - D—Rollen F. Stewart, a crushed rock salesman in Eastern, Washington.
- 19) **The current NFL record for most TD passes received in a career is 99, held by**
 - A—Raymond Berry.
 - B—Don Hutson.
 - C—Fred Sington.
 - D—Rozier G. Smith.
- 20) **During O. J. Simpson's greatest years at Buffalo, his two most frequent blocking guards were**
 - A—Joe DeLamielleure and C. J. Inabinet.
 - B—C. J. Inabinet and Putt Pace.
 - C—Putt Pace and Reggie McKenzie.
 - D—Reggie McKenzie and Joe DeLamielleure.

EPILOGUE

If you have read every word on the previous pages, you have a feel for those people, places, and events in pro football that we consider unforgettable. All but one.

In the waning weeks of the 1980 season and through the playoffs, Oakland's Lester Hayes was the outstanding cornerback in the NFL. He used more "stickum" (a sticky substance to help receivers and interceptors grip the ball) than anyone in prior NFL history. It got so that in recent weeks a rule has been passed outlawing its use.

Whatever the aids, Hayes was a prime interceptor when it counted most, and it's fair to say the Raiders would not have made it to Super Bowl XV without him. His performance in 1980 was outstanding, but perhaps not unforgettable.

Lester's most unforgettable moment came after the Raiders' Super Bowl win, when NBC-TV's Bryant Gumbel attempted to interview him in the dressing room. Hayes was unable to answer a single question. His rapid-fire attempts to speak resulted in a stammer so dominant that not a word was understandable. The national hero was revealed to the nation as a man who couldn't even talk.

With Super Bowl success came opportunities for endorsements, and a prominent soft drink organization invited Hayes to appear in a TV commercial. It paid excellent fees and Lester had to speak just one short phrase. But he couldn't say it, and he lost the commercial.

Never before had his handicap caused him quite such humiliation. In his desperation, Hayes signed up for a stutterer's clinic at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia.

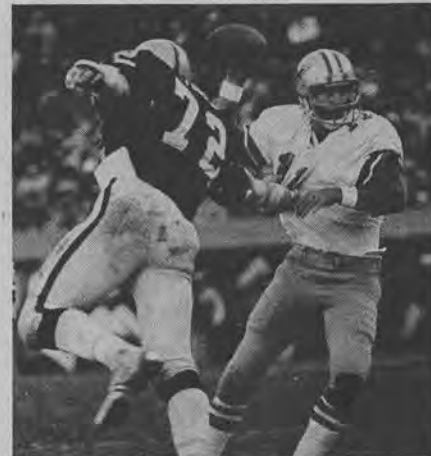
Miracles do happen. They come through medical people and they come direct. And they can happen at a place like a stutterer's clinic.

Within a month at Hollins, Hayes had found a key.

"They just told me to slow down," Hayes explained. "I'd never been able to say what I wanted to say, and the more I couldn't say it the harder I tried to force it out. That was wrong. Now I'm slowing down, and it comes out nice."

Nice, indeed. Have you seen the new smile on the face of Lester Hayes?

It's unforgettable.



QUIZ ANSWERS

(Questions on page 127)

- 1) A—Red Badgro, George Blanda, Willie Davis, and Jim Ringo.
- 2) A—New York Jets, Kansas City Chiefs, and New York Giants.
- 3) D—AFC-Western, NFC-Central, NFC-Eastern, and AFC-Central divisions.
- 4) C—playing the piano.
- 5) B—Indiana University, Notre Dame, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
- 6) B—eliminate the use of "stickum" on the hands of the potential receivers and interceptors.
- 7) B—Indian Packing Co.
- 8) A—Dr. Daniel J. Fortmann.
- 9) C—in a square dancing class at Arkansas State University.
- 10) D—7
- 11) D—Ernie Nevers in 1929.
- 12) A—Atlanta.
- 13) A—longest TD scored on a fumble return (98 yards).
- 14) B—Nov. 29, 1934—Chicago Bears and Detroit.
- 15) C—Green Bay, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and New York Giants.
- 16) D—Joe Namath and Johnny Unitas.
- 17) C—Southern Methodist
- 18) C—J. P. McCarthy, a radio personality at WJR, Detroit, Michigan.
- 19) B—Don Hutson.
- 20) D—Reggie McKenzie and Joe DeLamielleure.





